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THE NEWSPAPER FOR MAIDSTONE, MALLING, LARKFIELD AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES

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COUNTY TOWN TRIALS NEW SPY CAM SYSTEM

WHAT'S ON & WATCH

yourkenttv.co.uk

IDENTIFICATION: Chief Constable Mike Fuller explains how ID system works. Search 'police'

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PILOT SCHEME: Inspector Geoff Wyatt gets to grips with the new number plate recognition technology Picture ANNA WHITE

BY **ANNA WHITE**

POLICE have unveiled a new weapon which will allow them to track criminals.

New state-of-the-art receivers are being trialled in Maidstone after success in London, say police.

They are being fitted to five patrol cars which receive a live feed from automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras dotted around the county town.

It will alert officers on their mobile systems if any vehicles is spotted oin town which has been used to commit crime. Cops will also know instantly whether a car is taxed and insured or owned by a disqualified driver.

The ANPR cameras use information from local and national databases to look for criminals. If the trial is successful the technology will be rolled out across Kent.

The system was launched in the county town in September and has already been used in high profile incidents, says Chief Constable Mike Fuller, who showed off the system last week.

The hi-tech equipment was used in the investigation into the death of hit-and-run victim Shirley Leedham, 70, knocked down using a pedestrian crossing in Harrietsham in October.

Piloting officer, Inspector Geoff Wyatt, told Yourmaidstone: "APNR was used to track a vehicle that was believed to be involved in the Harrietsham case.

"The system told us the car was from outside the county, what direction it was heading in and its registration details. We were then able to track it down."

Chief Constable Michael Fuller said: "Thousands of cars pass through the county

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WHAT'S ON & WATCH

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TOP TV CLIPS

1 Bob Geldof takes a trip to the seaside. **See web TV site www.yourkenttv.co.uk and search 'Geldof'.**

2 Threshold is a most intimate drama experience. **See web TV site www.yourkenttv.co.uk and see the leisure channel.**

3 The second part of an insight into Ashford cattle market. **See web TV site www.yourkenttv.co.uk and search 'cattle'.**

SEE OUR SISTER PAPERS KENT ON SUNDAY AND THE SATURDAY EDITION FOR ALL THE WEEKEND'S COUNTY NEWS AND SPORT

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Why it is set to cost you £25 to park outside your own home

BY **ANNA WHITE**

PLANS to charge residents to park in their own street are a "kick in the teeth", say Lib Dem councillors.

Maidstone council is considering a series of parking changes in an attempt to boost income and reduce congestion.

The move is in response to overall parking use in the town having dropped dramatically during the economic downturn, reducing council revenue from charges.

A report being prepared by cabinet member for the environment Cllr Mark Wooding is looking at a proposal for residents to pay £25 for a permit to park in their own street.

Free on-street parking for visitors could also be scrapped and charges of 35p for 30 minutes and 70p for one hour implemented. The maximum waiting time could be reduced from two hours.

If it gets the go-ahead, the scheme will bring in an estimated annual income of £146,000.

But Lib Dem Cllr Tony Harwood told Yourmaidstone: "Charging residents to park in their own street – if they can find a space – is just another Tory stealth tax, plain and simple."

The council has also proposed to increase pay and display charges by 20p to £1.80 for up to three hours, and to introduce the same charges in pay and display car parks on Sundays.

This could be implemented as soon as January.

If approved, an extra 20 pay and display on-street parking bays will be created in roads near the town centre shopping facilities.

This will generate an estimated annual income of £116,000.

Leader of the Lib Dems on Maidstone council, Cllr Fran Wilson, said: "This is a bombshell. Local people are already feeling the effects of what is a major economic downturn.

"Now the council is to charge them for parking in their own roads.

"On top of that, traders will be devastated at the news that charges are to be brought in for Sunday town centre parking.

"The entire Lib Dem team in Maidstone will campaign to have these proposals overturned."

A council spokeswoman said: "The report asks the cabinet member for the environment to consider options for managing parking demand resulting from changing driver behaviour.

"These include changes to our residents' parking permit schemes.

"We want to make it easier for permit holders to park closer to their homes in residential parking zones and are recommending that in order to cover our costs every resident is asked to pay a new annual charge of £25 for their first permit.

"We want to give higher priority to residents and are recommending that non-permit holders are charged for parking in residents' zones."

BOMBSHELL: Residents could have to pay £25 for a permit to park in their own road

yourmaidstone NEWS IN BRIEF

Girl molested by sex pest in town centre

POLICE are looking for a large balding man who molested a young girl as she waited for a bus in Maidstone town centre.

The 12-year-old victim was standing with friends on the steps of HSBC Bank when a man grabbed her hand and made "lewd" comments, on October 7 at about 4.30pm.

Police want to hear from any witnesses. The offender is described as white, in his 30s, six foot tall, of heavy build, with blue eyes and balding.

Headmaster moving on after eight years

THE headmaster at Sutton Valence School has announced he will step down from his role after eight years.

Joe Davies is leaving the independent day and boarding school, at Chart Sutton, to become headmaster of Haileybury in Hertfordshire.

Bruce Grindlay, 41, will take charge of the 520-pupil Sutton Valence School and the 380-pupil Sutton Valence Preparatory School in September, next year.

He is currently director of music at Christ's Hospital in Horsham.

Rapist who fled to Spain in court today

CONVICTED rapist Andrew Alderman is due in court this morning after being flown back from Spain.

The 49-year-old Maidstone man fled the country two years ago after raping a 14-year-old girl.

But he gave himself up to last month after being placed the top ten Most Wanted Criminals list, making his life on the run near impossible.

An application was due to be made at Maidstone Crown Court this morning for Alderman to be resentenced by Judge John Nash, who sentenced him in his absence to 10 years in prison.

Model club's shed taken from field

A WOODEN shed has been stolen from Maidstone Model Flying Club.

Police said the shed was taken from a field in Redwall Lane, Linton, between 5.30pm and 7.30pm on Wednesday last week.

Anyone with information is asked to contact PC Jo Morgan of Maidstone police on 01622 690055, or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

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Kung fu kid fought off holiday attacker

BY **ANNA WHITE**

A 13-YEAR-old boy used his kung fu skills to protect his family when a machete-wielding intruder entered their luxury holiday apartment.

The Lee family, from Maidstone, were spending their first morning at the Southern Pals Hotel at St Lawrence Gap, in Barbados, on April 9, when a masked man burst into their apartment.

Dane Lee, 44, his wife Benita, 45, and their two children Millina, 11, and Redmond, 13, had paid more than £3,000 for the luxury 14-night trip with Virgin Holidays.

The family-of-four are now taking legal action against their tour operator, claiming there was a lack of security at their hotel.

Shocking

But a spokeswoman for the tour operator said its customers' safety was paramount and it had immediately moved the family from their self-catering apartment to an all-inclusive resort after the "shocking" incident.

She added that on their return to Maidstone the family had been offered and accepted counselling, and accepted vouchers for additional holiday bookings.

Mr Lee said: "We arrived at the resort on the evening of April 8 and woke up in the early hours to watch the first sunrise of the holiday together.

"I was in the bathroom when an intruder climbed over a wall and on to our balcony. My 11-year-old daughter, Millina, was sitting there at the time.

"She ran screaming into the apartment and the intruder followed her. His face was masked and he was holding a machete.

MY HERO: Dane Lee with son Redmond, who put machete-wielding attacker in an arm lock during attack in Barbados

"My wife was making coffee and she screamed and threw her cup at him, but he still didn't stop.

"He then went for my 13-year-old son, Redmond, who has been practising kung fu for the last five years and so was able to grab him and somehow put him in an arm lock.

"I ran at him and wrestled him to the ground, managing to throw him out on to the balcony and he ran off."

While wrestling with the intruder, Mr Lee tore a muscle in his left shoulder.

Daughter Millina was left traumatised and is still undergoing counselling.

A spokeswoman for the tour operator said: "Virgin Holidays was shocked by the Lee family's experience during their holiday in April this year.

"We would like to express, again, our commitment to offering full assistance, as we did at the time of this distressing incident.

"The safety of our customers is our priority at all times. We are liaising with the Lee family and will continue to do so as appropriate."

A bad break for MP Widdecombe

ANN Widdecombe has broken her left ankle in two places and sprained the right one after falling down a flight of steps.

The Conservative MP for Maidstone and the Weald was leaving a charity event in London holding a large bouquet of flowers when the accident took place.

She said: "There was a patch of slime on the steps, which everyone else saw and avoided, but I did not."

The former Shadow Home Secretary, who plans to retire at the next General Election, now has her left foot in a surgical boot and is on crutches.

As a result she will be forced to cancel some of her engagements between now and January 31.

The MP will not be able to make her traditional visit to each ward in her constituency and the emergency services on Christmas Day, but she will hold surgeries as normal.

Doctors have told Miss Widdecombe the surgical boot will come off at the end of February, but warned it could take until August to fully recover from her injuries.

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Geri Halliwell turns on Bluewater's Christmas lights. Search 'Geri'

'Technology will give us advantages'

FROM FRONT PAGE

everyday and many of those could be of interest to the police. This new technology will give us advantages that we didn't know we had, it will revolutionise policing.

"Previously, there would have been a substantial time delay from the time the car passed through a camera to when the police are notified, this new equipment will able us to respond to cars that come up on the APRN instantly.

"Since the pilot began in September, we have seen a 40 per cent rise in the amount of people arrested for offences including involvement in murder, drugs, and no insurance or no tax.

"The system allows us to track and trace vehicles which have been involved in criminal activity and helps us to ensure the innocent who go about their lives are not stopped."

Insp Wyatt added: "Vehicles are coming in all the time and the criminals may not be known by Maidstone police, but the system can identify the vehicles or drivers associated with criminal activity, and help us and nationwide police tackle crime."

Concerns over TB outbreak at day care centre

HOMELESS people in the county town have been struck down by a suspected outbreak of tuberculosis.

Kent Health Protection Unit (HPU) has confirmed a case of TB in a person who visits a day centre in Maidstone for people forced to sleep rough.

Three further cases of illness among homeless people who use the centre are being investigated, but the unit has not yet confirmed it as infectious TB.

Dr Jeremy Lissamore, consultant in communicable disease control at Kent's HPU, said: "We want to reassure people in the town that without prolonged, close contact, such as that experienced by family or household members, the risk of contracting TB is negligible.

"Even for those people who have had some contact, the risk is extremely low."

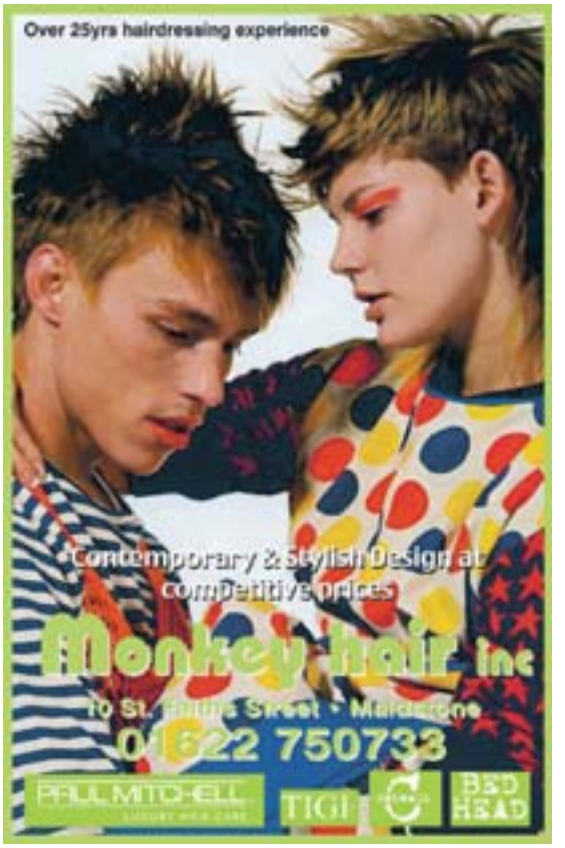
He said a mobile chest X-ray unit would be set up in the county town to screen people who use the day centre and a nearby hostel where homeless people can sleep.

Staff at the centre and the hostel are also being offered chest X-rays, although the risk of infection is low.

"Screening will determine whether or not anyone has become infected but this does not mean they have active disease. It may mean they will need treatment with antibiotics to prevent the infection from developing into active disease in later life," Dr Lissamore added.

TB usually affects the lungs and is completely treatable through a combined method using antibiotics for around six months.

It can be transmitted when a person with infection in the lung has close and sustained contact with others through coughing and sneezing.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Plenty of monkeying around at new nursery

A NEW full-time day nursery will hold open days on the next two Saturdays.

The Monkey Puzzle Day Nursery, on the A229 at Hartley Dyke, near Cranbrook, will be open from 7am to 7pm, 51 weeks of the year, from December 15.

The Ofsted-registered nursery will cater for 72 children and 24 babies from three months old up to school age. Parents can have a look around on December 6 and 13.

For more information call 01580 713033 or visit the website www.monkeypuzzle-daynurseries.com.

All the family can enjoy hospice's carol concert

FAMILIES can get into the festive spirit and raise money for charity by singing traditional Christmas carols.

The Heart of Kent Hospice will hold a carol service at All Saints Church in Maidstone on Friday December 12.

Stephen Fuller, from the Aylesford-based hospice, said: "At this time of year we feel it is important for hospice supporters to get together and celebrate the true message of Christmas."

To reserve a ticket by donation contact the hospice on fundraising@hokh.co.uk or call 01622 790195.

Free drop-in centre boost for the hard of hearing

PEOPLE with NHS hearing aids can drop into a Hi Kent free clinic next week to get them cleaned and collect fresh batteries.

The Kent charity, which works with the deaf and hard-of-hearing community, is running another of its free aftercare clinics for hearing aid users in Holy Cross Church, Bearsted, on December 12.

Advice is also available on loss of hearing and a range of services available.

People can stop by at the clinic between 10am and 11am.

Fire services close M20 to deal with car blaze

COMMUTERS faced long traffic delays after a car caught fire on the M20 near Maidstone.

Kent Fire and Rescue Service were called to the incident between junction eight at Hollingbourne and junction seven at Bearsted, on the London-bound carriageway at 8.23am on Friday.

Firefighters put out the burning blue Ford Mondeo by 8.46am.

A Mid Kent police spokeswoman said: "One lane of the M20 was closed from 8.30am to 9am to enable recovery. It is not known why the car caught alight."

Lauren coming on in leaps and bounds

BY **ANNA WHITE**

A YOUNG girl who suffers from chronic lung disease took gold at the Gymnastics and Movement for People with a Disability British Championships.

Lauren Lethbridge, 12, who lives in Boughton Monchelsea, said she is "leaping with joy" after becoming the New British Gymnastic Junior Champion at the GMPD meeting.

The young gymnast competed against under-16s from across the UK in the finals, held last week at the East London Gymnastics Centre.

She had great success at the competition, winning gold overall and taking four individual apparatus gold medals on bars, beam, floor and vault, and an engraved silver salver.

The new champion was born prematurely and has suffered from a chronic lung disease since birth.

The 12-year-old, a pupil at Sutton Valence School in Chart Sutton, has overcome her disability to become a skilled gymnast and a national level ballroom dancer.

She began gymnastics at the age of four and continues to train with her coach Pauline Wilson at The Meapa Gymnastics Club in Gravesend.

This was Lauren's first attempt at the championships, and her parents Catherine and Paul Lethbridge were there to cheer her on.

Mrs Lethbridge, whose eldest daughter Hannah also enjoys gymnastics, said: "It is very difficult to get across the amazing achievement this is for Lauren, as to look at her you wouldn't realise that she has a disability and struggles daily.

"She misses a lot of schooling, as well as gymnastic training, because of her disability, so we are all thrilled for her."

Joe Davies, headmaster of Sutton Valence School said: "Everyone at school is delighted for Lauren, who has put in many hours of dedicated training and has had to overcome a range of difficulties in order to pursue her gymnastics."

The GMPD was originally started by the British Gymnastics Association in order to develop and provide training and competitive competitions for people with any disability.

LUNG CAPACITY: Chronic illness didn't prevent Laura Lethenbridge from winning gold at the British Disability Championships

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Charitable Millen returns to her roots

FASHION designer Karen Millen returned to her roots to give a lecture on a charity project she has been working on at the University for the Creative Arts.

The internationally-renowned designer – who studied at the Rochester campus – then known as Kent Institute of Art and Design – returned for an international development seminar on Wednesday, last week.

Ms Millen, who lives at Wateringbury, near Maidstone, spoke about the Gateway School of Fashion, which she helped set up in South Africa to teach those affected by HIV and poverty a range of new skills.

Ms Millen said: "It's been an incredible journey, from the initial talk about the concept to actually ending the first year of the school on a high. It's been a total success."

UCA fashion lecturer Sheelagh Wright, who was Ms Millen's mentor and also instrumental in the school's development, said: "It offers a one-year course in fashion skills to a community that has been affected by HIV and poverty.

"Myself, Karen, HopeHIV and UCA has been involved in the project for the two-and-a-half years.

"The school delivers fashion skills in designing, pattern cutting and creating fabrics, so students can create garments to sell and earn an income."

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TEAM-MATES: Toby Flood (left), Darren Stevens (centre) and Ben Barham (right) with the watch store's staff

Flood's hands on approach at prestige firm

BY **ANNA WHITE**

ENGLAND rugby star Toby Flood visited the county town to launch a new website and help raise money for a hospice for terminally-ill children.

The 23-year-old fly half was called into the starting line-up against New Zealand on Saturday in the place of struggling wonderkid Danny Cipriani.

He brought more shape to the team and slotted a penalty, but was one of four England players sin-binned during their 32-6 defeat by the mighty All Blacks.

But before joining his team-mates for the England training camp he spent a day in Maidstone at the Watchfinder.co.uk showroom in Pudding Lane.

Watchfinder.co.uk is the online leader in buying and selling pre-owned luxury watches, including famous brands such as Rolex, Cartier and Tag Heuer.

Statement

The thriving business, which has a projected turnover of more than £12 million this year, invited the sportsmen to come along and help launch their newly-refurbished website.

Leicester Tigers star Flood was joined by Kent cricketer Darren Stevens and professional golfer Ben Barham, who are fellow ambassadors for the watch store.

INTRIGUED: Flood learns the ropes at Watchfinder

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During the afternoon they answered calls, dealt with customers and made tea for the team. The £850 profit from the luxury watches sold by the three sport stars will be donated to Demelza House Children's Hospice in Bobbing, near Sittingbourne.

Directors Stuart Hennell, Lloyd Amsdon, Jonathon Adams and Matt Bowling, who are all from Sittingbourne, set up the prestige company nine years ago.

Mr Bowling said: "Watches have become very cool, they give status and are a strong personality statement.

"If you buy a watch brand new you get a full warranty and the knowledge that you are the first to wear it, but that's about it.

"If you buy a pre-owned watch from us, after the work we have done to restore it, no one can tell it is second-hand, plus you are saving a lot of money."

Flood said: "Honestly, I wouldn't go back to buying brand new watches after learning about the company and what they do.

"All my team-mates ask where I got my watch from and I always recommend Watchfinder.co.uk.

"I'm here to launch the new website to give something back to them, and the fact it's for a good cause is even better."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Seventeen arrests during four-day drug crackdown

A SERIES of dawn raids at 25 premises throughout Kent have disrupted a major drugs network thought to be run by London gangs.

Kent police have so far arrested 17 people following the four-day operation during which a large haul of class A drugs were seized as well as more than £50,000 cash.

Seven addresses in Maidstone were raided, which resulted in four arrests.

Det Sgt John McDermott, from Special Branch's organised crime unit, said: "Drug dealers create havoc and misery in the community. They target vulnerable people and greatly affect people's quality of life.

"Our message to criminals is 'we don't want you in Kent'. If you come here, we will use every available legitimate police tactic to track you down and bring you to justice.

"By acting swiftly and decisively we are making Kent a hostile environment in which to commit crime."

The operation, which involved 100 enforcement officers and detectives daily, was the culmination of a three-month investigation.

Slurred speech told police driver had been drinking

DRINK driver Dawn Harris decided to drive home to Maidstone even though she was nearly three times over the limit.

Harris, 45, of Mote Road, Maidstone, was stopped on the London-bound carriageway of the M2 near Brenley Corner, Faversham, on November 12 at 1am.

Julie Farbrace, prosecuting, said police spoke to her and noticed her words were slurred. She was breath-tested at a police station.

Harris admitted a charge of driving with excess alcohol at Canterbury Magistrates Court on Thursday. Her sentencing was adjourned until December 17 for reports.

Take a cruise into town for your Christmas shopping

SHOPPERS can avoid getting caught in town centre traffic jams this Christmas by using the Park and Sail service.

Maidstone council is bringing back the popular river transport service for another year, starting every Saturday up until December 20.

Customers can park at the Museum of Kent Life and hop on board the Kentish Lady at the Allington Lock.

The hourly boat service will anchor in at the Archbishop's Palace. The fare is £3 for adults and £1 return for children.

The service is subject to river conditions, for more information call 01622 753740.

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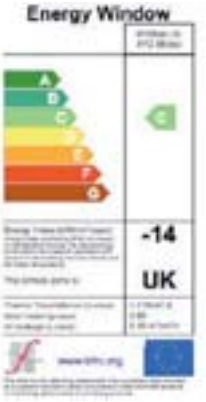

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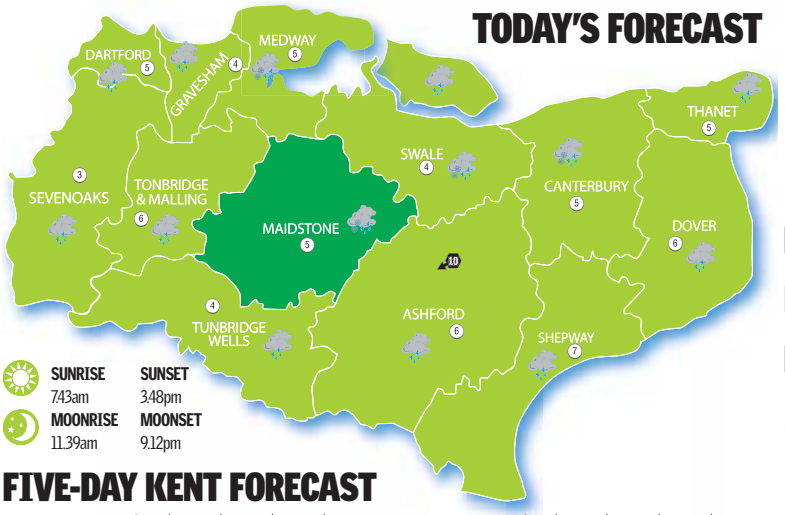

SUNRISE 7.43am **SUNSET** 3.48pm
MOONRISE 11.39am **MOONSET** 9.12pm

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	6°C	5°C	8°C	7°C	7°C
Canterbury	5°C	5°C	8°C	7°C	7°C
Chatham	6°C	5°C	8°C	8°C	8°C
Dartford	6°C	5°C	8°C	8°C	8°C
Dover	5°C	6°C	7°C	7°C	7°C
Faversham	6°C	5°C	8°C	8°C	8°C
Folkestone	5°C	6°C	7°C	7°C	7°C
Gillingham	6°C	5°C	8°C	8°C	8°C
Gravesend	6°C	5°C	8°C	8°C	8°C
Maidstone	5°C	5°C	8°C	8°C	8°C
Ramsgate	5°C	5°C	8°C	7°C	7°C
Rochester	6°C	5°C	8°C	8°C	8°C
Sevenoaks	4°C	3°C	7°C	6°C	6°C
Sittingbourne	6°C	5°C	8°C	8°C	8°C
Tonbridge	5°C	5°C	8°C	8°C	7°C
Tun Wells	5°C	5°C	8°C	8°C	7°C

WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	4:38pm	5.2m
	Sunday	5:27pm	5.0m
Dover	Saturday	2:46pm	5.6m
	Sunday	3:42pm	5.4m
Dungeness	Saturday	2:40pm	6.6m
	Sunday	3:30pm	6.4m
Ramsgate	Saturday	3:16pm	4.2m
	Sunday	4:12pm	4.1m
Sheerness	Saturday	4:27pm	5.0m
	Sunday	5:16pm	4.9m
Whitstable	Saturday	4:30pm	4.7m
	Sunday	5:24pm	4.5m

AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	5°C	Madrid	6°C
Athens	17°C	New York	4°C
Barcelona	12°C	Paris	5°C
Beijing	12°C	Rome	16°C
Bombay	30°C	Sydney	31°C
Cape Town	27°C	Tenerife	21°C
Cardiff	5°C	Tokyo	12°C
Gibraltar	12°C	Vancouver	11°C
Hong Kong	21°C	Warsaw	10°C
Las Palmas	19°C	Wellington	19°C

Association wins TV funding for footpath

A PROJECT to build a new public footpath through Loose Valley has won £57,750 after viewers voted for the good cause to win a TV contest.

The Loose Amenities Association's Public Footpath through Loose Valley, in Maidstone, took part in a head-to-head battle with another community scheme for the public's vote to win the cash prize on ITV Meridian East, last Tuesday.

The association came out as the winners of the Big Lottery Fund's People's Millions TV competition, which will see the paths being improved to make them easier to use in all weathers.

The old footpath is currently inaccessible to pushchairs and visitors with mobility problems, but the improvements will make disabled access possible.

It is hoped the new path will also encourage people from the south Maidstone area to visit Loose Valley.

Alison Rowe, Big Lottery Fund head of the South East region, said: "This is great news for the people of Maidstone.

"It goes to show what community projects can achieve when they have the support of local people."

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QUESTION & ANSWER

DR CHRIS GERRY

The executive principal of New Line Learning Federation, which runs two school academies in Maidstone, spoke to **Anna White** about the benefits of the new educational institutions and the way forward.

Q Tell us a little about yourself

A As the executive principal of NLL Federation I am responsible for both the New Line Learning Academy and Cornwallis Academy. I have been a headteacher for more than 14 years and I worked as an executive head in three schools. In the latter I worked with two schools in 'challenging circumstances' which have since become academies.

Q Can you tell us about the concept of the New Line Learning Federation?

A The idea behind NLL was to develop – over time – a set of schools that had consistent outputs driven by consistent processes. Part of this involves rethinking the whole education process for children and trying to design an improved set of experiences.

Q Why is it different from other schools?

A We are designing, but don't yet have completed, intelligent metrics to guide our work. The idea is if you begin to look at education as a series of processes then it might be possible to improve them all simultaneously. By using the information we have about children more intelligently we can look at calculating risk factors and intervening to make a difference. To sum up, this is the beginning of a more scientific approach to ensuring all children succeed.

The curriculum is different too, with a two year key stage three, a focus on social skills, reporting every six weeks to students and parents, the use of key performance information from students to inform us what they think, free tablet PCs for pupils in year seven, early entry into the sixth form and a lot more.

Q What benefits do you think NLL has brought to Maidstone?

A Hopefully more achieving children, plus a significant investment in new schools.

Q Why did you choose Cornwallis, Senacre and Oldborough Manor as the schools to turn into academies?

A Senacre and Oldborough were not viable as they stood. They fitted the criteria to become a merged academy. Cornwallis was included because it was part of the federation and was providing support to Senacre and Oldborough. Additionally the academies' programme provided £65m of investment in new schools from central government: so it seemed like a good deal.

Q When NLL was first introduced some of the parents voiced their concerns, do you like to think you have proved the system is positive and beneficial?

A If you measure success in simple exam results yes, as they have continued to climb and we are establishing results beyond what the predecessor schools achieved. But there is more to it, we are saying 'qualifications are necessary but no longer sufficient'. We are focusing on developing students' skills and have been working with Yale University on this. Longer term, although difficult to measure, this is as important as exam results.

Q What changes have you seen since NLL was first introduced to now?

A Well I have mentioned improved outputs. I am especially pleased with the 100 per cent pass rate at A level, with two thirds of grades at higher levels. But I am also pleased with the curriculum developments, one-to-one computer access, introducing Mandarin, sending pupils to China and so on. Our work with Microsoft is also pleasing (see innovative schools on YouTube).

Q Maidstone council recently approved the new state-of-the-art building on the former Oldborough Manor site. What will the new academy will bring to the federation?

A Both schools are academies and both are being rebuilt along very similar lines. The first academy being rebuilt is NLL Academy at Loose, with work starting January, construction at Cornwallis Academy, Linton, will follow. The academies will complement each other and features include extended vocational centres, performing arts theatres, music/art studios, hi-tech specialist rooms and exceptional sporting facilities.

Reaction to the plans has been very positive so far.

Q What is next for the New Line Learning Federation?

A Developing the model further, developing more personalised approaches for children and developing more community links.

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KOS Media's managing director Paul Stannard talks about the launch of our £1 Million Business Challenge 2009. Search 'challenge'

Union members in Dover take to the streets to stop lorries in a dispute over jobs at the docks. Search 'strike'

Discover the history of one of the county's most famous cattle markets. Search 'cattle'

Why boats had to be launched sideways at one historic dockyard. Search 'sideways'

A new state-of-the-art café opens for business at the end of one of the county's best-loved piers. Search 'pier'

EDITOR'S CHOICE

You can view all these videos and others from around the county with the click of a mouse at... yourkenttv.co.uk

PLAYTIME: From left, Elmo, High School Musical sing-along microphone, FurReal Tumbles, Wall-E, Guitar RockStar, Buzz Lightyear, Clone Wars helmet, and below, Mack and Lightning McQueen

Present buying is child's play

KOS Media and Kent's largest shopping centre have come up with a list of the hottest toys this festive season for parents looking for inspiration.

With help from Bluewater shops John Lewis and the Disney Store, we tried and tested the top gifts that are going to be flying off the shelves this Christmas.

You can see the toys in action in a video clip on Yourkenttv.

The Disney store offers great toys inspired by their famous films and TV programmes.

The release of Disney's High School Musical 3: Senior Year, in October, had youngsters booking their cinema seats weeks in advance.

The High School Musical Sing-along Microphone, priced at £10, will give wannabe Zach and Vanessa's the chance to practice the film's hit songs anywhere and anytime.

Youngsters who prefer engines to musicals will enjoy the Radio Controlled Mack and Lightning McQueen, £20, from the Disney film Cars.

BY **ANNA WHITE**

The infra-red remote-controlled model of loveable character Wall-E, which costs £20, is also expected to be a top-seller.

Despite Disney film Toy Story being released in 1995, Buzz Lightyear remains a firm favourite this Christmas. The talking version of the animated toy superhero appears on the most-wanted list, for £15.

John Lewis offer gifts for youngsters and adults, making it the perfect destination to tick off the majority of your Christmas list.

For children wanting a pet dog but without having to train or clean it, the FurReal Tumbles my rollover pup will allow them to love and care for it just as they would a real dog. The fluffy animal, which costs £29.95, rolls over and listens to commands.

Elmo from the children's TV programme Sesame Street, can share his stories and jokes with lucky youngsters this Christmas.

The life-like Elmo Live moves when he speaks and interacts with his owner. He is £59.95 from John Lewis.

Music-lovers can practice their guitar moves on the road or entertain at a family get-together during the festive season with the Guitar RockStar, for £14.99.

To complete the list, fans of the Star Wars movies can look and sound like one of the Clone Wars Troopers, for £29.99, with a voice-changing helmet.

The authentic mask helmet features popular phrases and a radio static button to help achieve the full affect.

Bluewater Christmas opening hours are 10am to 10pm Monday to Friday, 9am to 9pm on Saturday, and 11am to 5pm on Sunday.

Order online at www.johnlewis.com or www.disney-store- shopping.co.uk.

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Anna White tries out all the toys for herself. Search 'toys'

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Little Darlings and Lost Boys of panto

BY **JANE CONNOLLY**

CHILDREN from the Liz Burville Performing Arts Centre will be flying high in Dartford this Christmas.

An integral part of Peter Pan, the Orchard Theatre's pantomime, the young actors from the Bexley centre will be bringing the magic to life as the Darling family, the Lost Boys and other characters.

Principal Liz Burville has been involved with the Orchard's Christmas shows for about 20 years, either as a dancer, choreographer or provider of talented young performers.

"The children are all very excited," she said. "Most of them are quite experienced, which is probably why we are asked to take part each year.

Discipline

"The children get very involved in rehearsals and it is a bit more demanding this year, particularly for the four boys playing Michael and John Darling."

The key characters were handpicked by the show's director and star, comedian Joe Pasquale, and rehearsals got under way on November 24. Aged between six and 13, the children show remarkable discipline and talent for ones so young.

During performances the young cast are looked after by chaperones who are mostly parents of students. Some regularly offer their services, even if their own children are not appearing in the show.

"The chaperones have as much fun as the kids," Ms Burville said. "When there is a break between two performances, they go out and Dartford gets hit by a bevy of excited children, singing all the songs from the shows. They're good kids and they do as they're told."

For Ms Burville, the opportunity to take part in the show is not only great fun for her students, but can also be an inspiration for other children in the area.

"It's especially good for the local schools, who will have received leaflets about the pantomime," she said. "It's really exciting to think that these kids can be in a high-profile production and other children can come along and enjoy it too, particularly as they can see people they know appearing in it."

Like many people who help to keep Kent's pantomime tradition alive, Ms Burville believes that providing children with a good first experience of theatre will affect them for the rest of their lives.

"Once a child has been exposed to live theatre, hopefully they will want to see more of it," she said.

• Peter Pan is running at the Orchard Theatre, Dartford, from this Friday until Sunday January 11. To book tickets call the box office on 01322 220000 or visit the website at www.orchardtheatre.co.uk.

REHEARSALS: Liz Burville (inset) says the children at her performing arts centre are rehearsing hard and are excited about starring in this year's Orchard Theatre pantomime, Peter Pan, in Dartford

Don't miss Captain Hook's online look behind the scenes as the cast prepares for this year's pantomime.
Actor Alex Giannini reveals all online

Family and friends give thanks for a 'wonderful' man

TRIBUTES were paid to former Kent County Council leader Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart during a thanksgiving service at Canterbury Cathedral on Thursday last week.

Lord Bruce-Lockhart, who stepped down as council leader in 2005, died on August 14 after a long battle with cancer.

Hundreds of friends, family members, former colleagues and politicians gathered for the cathedral service.

Former Tory leader Michael Howard, the MP for Folkestone and Hythe, said Lord Bruce-Lockhart had enjoyed a "remarkable" political career.

After the service, senior Labour MP Ruth Kelly described Lord Bruce-Lockhart as "absolutely wonderful".

The former Cabinet member said she had a very good working relationship with him, in spite of their different political backgrounds.

"He wanted to do what was right," she said.

GREAT FIGURE: Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart died of cancer in August

Local government minister John Healey said: "He was a great figure in local government. In many ways he had so much more to offer to the country."

The service was led by the Very Rev Robert Willis, The Dean of Canterbury Cathedral, and there were readings by Harriet Creelman, Lord Bruce-Lockhart's niece, and old friend Chris Gosling.

Lord Bruce-Lockhart became a county councillor for Maidstone Rural East in 1989 after chairing a rail committee in the Weald of Kent Preservation Society, protesting over the route of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link.

Lord Bruce-Lockhart led KCC for eight years from 1997, was knighted in 2002, made chairman of the Local Government Association in 2004 and became a life peer in 2006.

In 2007 he was appointed chairman of English Heritage.

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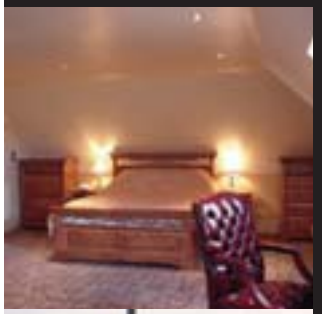

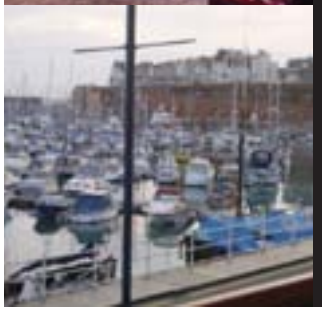

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yourmaidstoneblogger

Each week we get a mystery writer to air their views on living in and around Maidstone...

'Christmas credit crunch is a blessing in disguise'

THE Church of England has picked up where Gordon Brown left off and is advocating prudence this festive season.

While Government ministers scramble to defend the logic of borrowing and spending their way out of recession, the Church has used the convenient timing of Advent to reassure people they can still enjoy Christmas, despite the credit crunch.

In a YouTube video, Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams suggests that instead of being miserable and padding out the days in the run-up to Christmas by eating chocolate from their advent calendars, people might use the time to reflect on the current situation and perhaps find spiritual solace in the Scriptures.

That's all well and good and may work for some, but for others the more orthodox trappings of the festive season – carols around the tree, ooing and ahhing at the school nativity play – only offer a temporary diversion from the worry of an overloaded credit card statement looming in January, and the fear of not being able to provide a Nintendo Wii under the tree in a few weeks time.

The Bishop of Reading takes a more practical approach and has published a timely book entitled 'Do Nothing, Christmas is Coming', offering helpful hints for celebrating without stressing your credit card, the environment or yourself.

You, like me, may not be a practising Christian, but I still think the bishop might have something here.

If the best bit about Christmas is people giving and receiving gifts to show their love for each other on at least one day of the year (even if they will be arguing over control of the TV remote by the time the Queen's Speech is on), then with a little creativity, the Yuletide spirit can still prevail in hard times.

Why not make Auntie Shirley laugh with a handmade Christmas card? You might not be artistic, but most people can handle a pair of scissors, some glue and glitter. Get the kids involved and make a happy Sunday afternoon of cutting and pasting your old cards to make new ones. No one can argue against the environmentally-friendly merits of this one and it's so much nicer than a bland, impersonal e-card or text.

And supermarkets are already offering cheap deals on all the seasonal favourites – puddings, pies, beer and chocolate. So instead of buying a gift and then giving a bottle of wine as an extra when you're invited to dinner, make the drink the gift itself. Wrap the organic Cava in a bow, they'll love it.

Or you could make a hamper for your grandparents. Cover a cardboard box in wrapping paper (left over from last year when you bought too much) and fill it with basics and a few goodies they might not buy themselves.

Yes, times are hard. No, you don't have much money. But don't panic, just be creative.

Who knows, like Scrooge, you might even find the joy of Christmas.

• EDITOR'S NOTE: All bloggers are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

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Write to The Editor, Yourmaidstone, KoS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

* We cannot guarantee all articles will be published and all are at the editor's discretion

yourmaidstoneschools

A brilliant friend who will always be remembered

BY ANNA WHITE

PINK balloons filled the sky as students celebrated the life of their "brilliant" friend Nicole Barnes during an emotional memorial service.

The 13-year-old schoolgirl, from Bearsted, died suddenly at Maidstone Hospital after a stomach and bowel infection in September.

She was born with myotonic dystrophy, a muscular problem, and needed operations to straighten her feet, but never let the disability hold her back.

Nicole's parents, Peter and Shirley, close friends, and teachers and pupils from the New Line Learning Academy gathered at Loose Baptist Church last week to remember her sunny personality and positive attitude to life.

During the service they watched a photographic presentation about the teenager, who had a passion for dance, ballet and cats.

Student Tiffany Smith sang Fields of Gold, headteacher Guy Hewett recalled his many conversations with Nicole, and two of her close friends shared their fond memories.

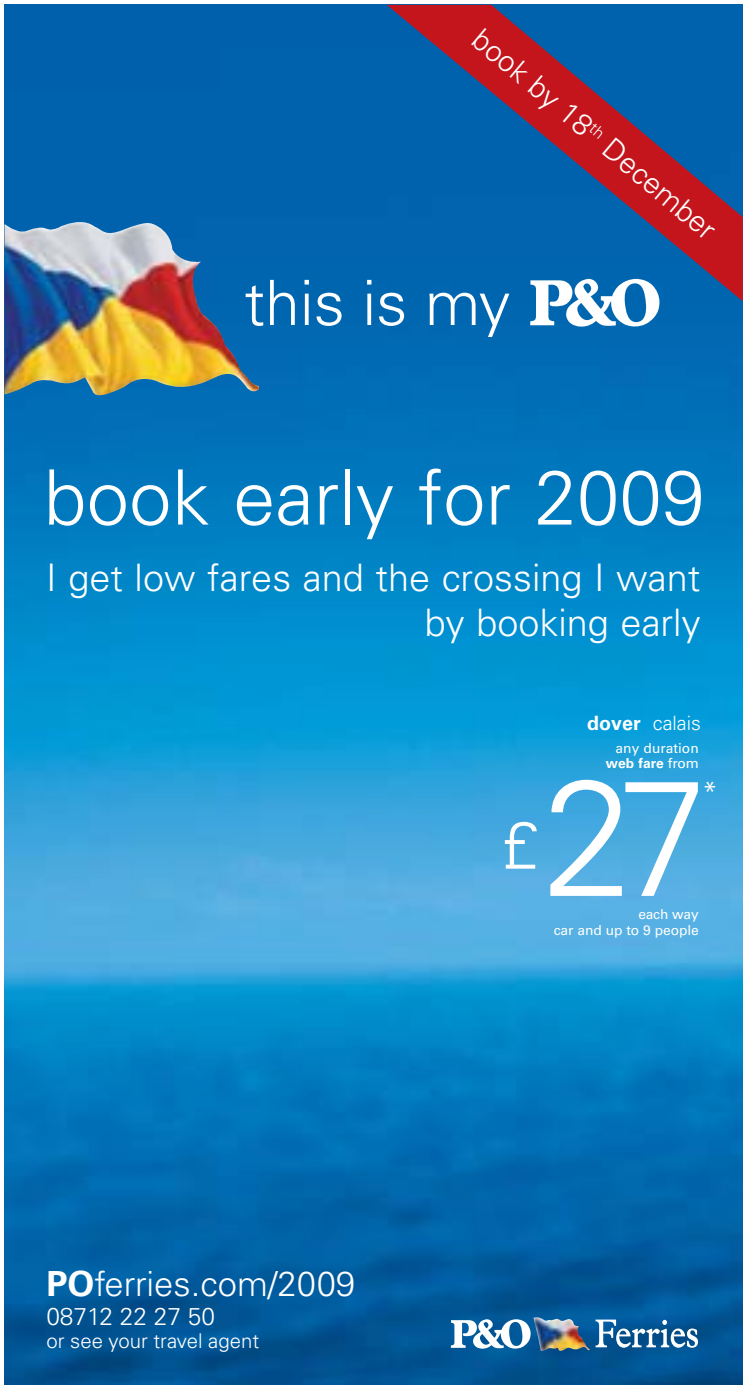
Abbie Morgan, 13, said: "Nicole was so funny and a good friend. She used to make me laugh. Nicole used to tell me about her family and pets and I was a good friend to her.

"Nicole used to show me her dance and I said I loved it so much she showed it to me again and again. In PE she used to jump up and down and all around."

Jack Steward, 13, said: "To me she was a brilliant friend. She was always making her friends laugh and making them smile."

After the service, students and Nicole's parents released pink balloons with personal messages tied to them, in memory of the much-loved pupil, friend and daughter.

HIGH EMOTION: Pink balloons are released in memory of New Line Learning Academy pupil Nicole Barnes



*Including all taxes and surcharges. For travel between 1 January 2009 and 31 December 2009. Fare shown includes a £2.50 web discount. Full terms and conditions apply.

BREAK TIME

Junior scientists head for the stars

SPACE CADETS: Maidstone youngsters who took part in the Growing Scientists activity day

PUPILS from the county town got a flavour of life in outer space as they set off on an interactive journey around the galaxy.

Year eight students from Invicta Grammar and Maidstone Grammar were 'transported' to the final frontier by a 16-seater space simulator.

Twelve mission teams competed against each other throughout the day for the chance to win prizes.

Tasks included building and testing rockets and other flying machines, as well as working in teams to construct Mars rovers, landing crafts and solar ovens.

Students also watched two rockets being launched skywards.

The Space Camp activity was part of the Growing Scientists project, launched in October at The Friars in Aylesford, which aims to encourage young people to choose science careers and courses by showing them the fun side of the subject through team-building activities.

Ian Wesson, the director of Spacecamps.co.uk, said: "Space Camps are an introduction to more specialised science. They deal with robotics, advanced propulsion and the challenges of living in space.

"This is the first time both schools have embarked on such an ambitious project involving so many students working together.

"Our aim is to raise the profile of science and to ensure it is no longer perceived as alien by the majority of students."

In total, eight schools are taking part in the scheme. The others are: Maidstone Girls' Grammar, Sutton Valence, Maplesden Noakes, Astor of Hever, Oakwood Park Grammar and St Simon Stock.

SEND your schools news and pictures to yourmaidstone@kosmedia.co.uk. You can also upload your own video clips of schools events on to www.yourkenttv.co.uk

yourcompetition

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HERE'S your chance to win one of six premier grade Nordman 6ft trees – plus a stand and a set of lights.

Homewood Orchard Garden Centre stocks only first grade premier Christmas trees, which you can browse at your leisure in order to choose the perfect tree in all its glory.

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For your chance to win a tree, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your e-mail address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Orchard Garden centre comp, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR. The closing date is December 10, 2008.

Question: How tall are the premier grade Nordman trees you can win in this competition?

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TALK TIME

BECKY FRANKS

The 20-year-old talks about her career as a dance teacher and gives her views on what it's like to live in the county town.

Can you tell us a little about yourself?

I was born in Bromley but have lived in Maidstone with my twin sister Laura on our own since the age of 16.

My parents own a pub in Guildford, Surrey, and I enjoy working there on the weekends.

I also have a brother who now lives in America and an older sister who has recently had a gorgeous baby boy.

I went to school at Maplesden Noakes in Maidstone, after I finished I took a performing arts course which specialised in dance.

I have loved dance from a young age and I decided to take the course to further my qualifications.

What did you do after your dance course?

I am a now a qualified dance teacher and I taught at the Margaret Preedy Dance Studios for a year, teaching ballroom, Latin and street dance, which was a great experience but the hours were too long and it did not offer enough money.

I am now working for Kent County Council as an administrator. The people are lovely and the work is enjoyable.

Would you like to get back into teaching?

I would definitely love to get back into teaching dance one day soon.

I really enjoyed teaching something that I love and working with the students.

YOUR LETTERS

It's not our choice to raise taxi fares

I was not surprised but saddened by your front page story last week suggesting we're the bad boys increasing fares in the recession.

Whilst our timing is not great – be aware we have to follow Maidstone council's timetable for these sort of changes – a little more research might have given you a fairer understanding of the need for our fare increase.

Available free of charge, from the council's reception desk at their licensing department is the trade magazine Private Hire and Taxi Monthly. This always details the National Fare League Tables, by council.

The November 2008 edition shows Maidstone's fares are ranked 57th most expensive out of 375, not that surprising given the cost of operating in the South East.

Number one, for information, is Colchester; London is ninth.

The other area fares are:

Dartford sixth, Tunbridge Wells tenth, Sevenoaks 13th, Canterbury 14th, Medway 27th, Dover 36th, Swale 41st, Gravesham 53rd. Only Tonbridge and Malling is listed below us at 65th and they charge £2.20 per running mile (against our £1.86) so are more expensive on any fare of three miles and over.

Also don't forget we have to run London-style taxis that are, as was declared in your article, more expensive to buy (and also to run) than more standard saloon cars and indeed 'people carriers'.

None of these other councils, apart from Dartford and Canterbury, requires this cost burden.

So perhaps we're not so bad after all – and we've borne all the fuel increases without demur – will they fall back for long? Not with the government increases and the falling pound against the dollar I suspect.

Remember we're small businesses fighting for survival too, don't you think we realise putting up our fares is regrettable?

As is shown by the above we're on a lower base than our neighbouring competitors and difficult though it is, we have to do something. The council knows this, which is why they've agreed our request.

I hope this information will help you to better understand our position and dare I suggest it offer us some support in these difficult times.

J Chapman, a Maidstone black cab driver, by email.

COMMENT ONLINE TOO

NOT only can you use email and letters to respond to our stories, don't forget you can comment via our website too.

Beneath most stories on the www.yourmaidstone.co.uk website there is the facility to leave your comments on whatever YOU thought of the online article. To leave your remarks, simply click on the 'Add your comments' link and tell us what you think. And remember, www.yourmaidstone.co.uk is updated daily, bringing you the latest, breaking news from across Maidstone as well as our villages. We will include the best on these pages too – ensuring your comments reach the widest possible audience.

In addition, if you find your newsagent, supermarket or petrol station runs out of Yourmaidstone before you've picked up your copy, you never need to miss out. On www.yourmaidstone.co.uk you can access, for free, the full newspaper in our highly acclaimed e-editions.

Price hike story was misleading

In reply to your front page story last week, I am sure by now you will be aware taxis in Maidstone do not run on unleaded petrol but run on diesel.

Your cost of a taxi per journey is probably correct, what you do not say is all Maidstone taxis are licensed to carry five persons; the cost per person would therefore be a fifth of your costing, quite reasonable I would suggest.

I know you were aware of the comparison of fare charts from other authorities for a running mile and believe it was an error of judgment not to include it in your report, to have done so would have given your readers, along with the cost of purchasing wheelchair accessible vehicles, maintenance, higher fuel cost and inflation, a better understanding of the need for the seven per cent increase.

Your article has attempted to portray the people in the taxi industry as uncaring and unsympathetic in the present economic climate. That is totally unacceptable.

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I should remind you, taxi drivers have families and struggle to cope with the economic meltdown just like everyone else.

If we do not remain solvent we shall become another victim of this recession.

Dennis Conyon, chairman of Maidstone Taxi Proprietor Association, by email.

Penny protest is sure to have an effect

If eveybody paid the new toll in the smallest denomination coins possible, think of the work involved.

A very legitimate protest that should get some response.

Richard Sim, from Maidstone, comment posted on web story at www.yourmaidstone.co.uk.

Shopkeepers suffer under new VAT level

Has the Government realised what their small drop in VAT means to shopkeepers? I know they won't suffer financially – but what about the time spent in re-labelling every single product they sell in order to display the new prices.

It's not a question of just subtracting it from the till as most do not allow you to deduct half a per cent.

Any benefit to shoppers will be lost when they are forced to wait ten minutes while shop assistants work out the new prices – or while they are busy scurrying round the store putting altered prices on everything.

Terry Pardue, by email.

Capt John Brunt's sign is once again on pub

Reinstated board is a sign we do care

It is appropriate that in the month of Remembrance Day the pub sign honouring John Brunt VC was reinstated.

People in Paddock Wood have not got too much history or tradition to shout about – so they should celebrate what they have.

It shows people do care as they protested when plans to change its name were revealed a few years ago.

Brian Collins, from Paddock Wood, by email.

Urge your MP to give animals a voice

I am writing to you about the problem of status dogs – an issue the RSPCA is currently campaigning on.

Dogs used as weapons are becoming increasingly popular in urban gangs. Indeed, the RSPCA saw a 15-fold increase in the number of complaints about dog fighting between 2004-2007.

These dogs can suffer terrible injuries through dog fighting or cruelty, including in some cases physical violence inflicted by their owners.

Such dogs are also used to intimidate, fight or even attack people and other animals (often other dogs and cats) and this has a huge impact on communities.

The society is urging readers to lobby their MP and ask them to put their name forward for the Private Members Bill ballot, taking place on December 11.

Alternatively you can go to the website www.giveanimals avoice.org.uk for more information.

Readers could also write to the minister responsible at Defra, Jane Kennedy MP, to ask her to consider updating the law.

RSPCA animal centres are bulging with unwanted 'status' dogs such as the bull breeds and Staffordshire bull terrier crosses. We need to act now to alleviate this growing crisis, and consolidate the law to protect both dogs and humans.

Paul Stilgoe, regional Superintendent for the RSPCA in the South East, by email.

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My hero worship of Billy isn't just Childish

BY **SIMON ROBINSON**

CULT rocker Billy Childish is my hero – and he should be yours too.

Here are five reasons why you should cancel all plans you may have for this Friday and take in his performance with The Musicians of the British Empire at The Farmhouse in Canterbury instead:

1. The Chatham-born singer/artist/poet/film-maker goes under the stage name of Wild Billy Childish, an effortlessly cool pseudonym.

If you or I attempted to adopt such a stage name it would come across as juvenile, pretentious, or worse-case scenario; both juvenile and pretentious. Billy, on the other hand, gets away with it.

2. Billy's gig wardrobe consists of military uniform seemingly lifted straight off the set of classic 60s war film Zulu.

Fellow band members Wolf and Julie also get in on the act, playing along with the Rourke's Drift dress-up before heading on to the stage.

Matching band outfits are nothing new but are often simply adopted as part of a cheap marketing gimmick – think the slick suits sported by The Hives, for instance – but with the Musicians of the British Empire, their get-up seems entirely fitting.

3. Musicians inspired by Billy Childish include late Nirvana frontman and grunge godfather Kurt Cobain, pop royalty Kylie Minogue and Jack and Meg White of The White Stripes fame, to name but a few. Here's your chance to see what these industry greats saw.

4. The music is raw, energetic and – rather importantly – very good. The stripped-down garage rock sound is timeless. Simple riffs and killer hooks provide the backdrop for Billy's no-nonsense lyrics. Add the band's on-stage chemistry into the equation and you have a winner.

ICONIC: Nurse Julie and Wolf join Wild Billy Childish in Rourke's Drift dress-up as The Musicians of the British Empire

5. Billy does not care what you think of him. Nothing cements a man's status as cult hero more than his unequivocal desire to avoid such a tag. Ironic, don't you think?

The Farmhouse's Matt Gough said he was looking forward to Friday, commenting: "This is it.

"Artist, poet, punk rocker Billy Childish is hitting Canterbury town for a rare gig to celebrate the release of latest album Thatcher's Children, with his stripped down band of Nurse Julie and Wolf – The Musicians of the British Empire.

"The most prolific artist, poet and songwriter of his generation, and the shining jewel in Kent's cultural crown, this is not one to miss.

"This is the gig promised following The Musicians of The British Empire's unfortunate decision they had to make to pull out of Lounge On The Farm 2008."

Support on the night comes from one of the Medway Delta's garage bands, hand-picked by Billy himself – The Armitage Shanks.

Entry costs £10. Doors 8pm to 2am.

To buy tickets visit www.loungeonthefarm.co.uk/tickets_billychildish.htm

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Kayley performs the title track from her debut album Chasing Dreams

Hard rock band Tortilla Army perform and talk on The Ether

The Kent chart

1. Steve Furlong - To fall with you (from Birchington)
2. D-FiNiTiVE - Space (from Tenterden)
3. Kayley Weller - Tonight is going to be our night (from Deal)
4. Ron Bowdery - The Ghostship in sea mist (from New Eltham)
5. Shotgun Junky - Destiny (Maidstone)

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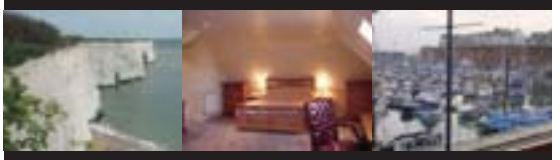

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CHRISTMAS CHEER: The streets of Rochester will come alive as the town celebrates the festive period with entertainment from Dickensian times

A Dickens of a Christmas

Town to celebrate author during festive period

JOURNEY back in time and see the festive season through the eyes of a great writer with Rochester's Dickensian Christmas.

This weekend the town will be transporting visitors back to the 1800s for a traditional celebration of Christmas. Rochester will be alive with family entertainment and festivity from Dickens' day, proving the perfect antidote to modern day stresses and worries.

The streets that Dickens explored as a boy will be populated with entertainers and musicians. Visitors will also have the chance to join in with favourite Christmas carols and enjoy a guaranteed snowfall.

The festival actually begins on Friday (Dec 5) with the Grand Mistletoe Ball at the Corn Exchange. A three-course meal will be followed by music from The Donn Barcott Band. Tickets cost £24, to book call 01795 843317.

On Saturday, pick up some bargain Christmas gifts from Bespoke 2008 in The Prince's Hall at the Corn Exchange. Running from 10.30am to 4.30pm, the free event showcases the best of Medway's talented designers and makers.

Father Christmas will be in residence at Rochester Castle Gardens from 11am to 4pm both days, while at 3pm on Saturday Dickens' great, great grandson Gerald will perform his acclaimed one-man interpretation of A Christmas Carol at The Queens' Hall.

ROCHESTER'S DICKENSIAN CHRISTMAS
Saturday December 6 and Sunday December 7, various venues in Rochester

Ashley Davis will host the sumptuous Bull Dinner at 7.30pm at the Royal Victoria and Bull Hotel and at the same time the Christmas Concert With A Twist will be held at St Margaret's Church, with organist Gavin Williams and friends.

The fun continues on Sunday with John Bromley-Davenport QC's adaptation of A Christmas Carol in the cathedral nave at 1pm. Experience some real traditional entertainment at 2pm when The Fabulous FezHeads, England's premier sand dance vaudevillian illusionists, will baffle and amuse the audience at The Queen's Hall.

On both days The Seven Poor Travellers' Procession will set off from the Royal Victoria and Bull Hotel at 11am to the Six Poor Travellers' House, in time for the carving of the Christmas turkey. At noon Mayor of Medway, Cllr David Carr, will lead a procession of Dickens' characters and other participants from the junction of High Street and Almon Place to Rochester Castle Gardens.

The candlelit parade sets out from the same spot at 4.45pm, followed by an open-air carol concert overlooking Rochester Cathedral at 5pm. The BAE Systems Brass Band will lead a selection of carols which will be enhancing by a guaranteed snowfall.

Extra entertainment will be taking place at Rochester Castle Gardens both days, including a children's traditional funfair and a Christmas craft fair and there will be services taking place at the Cathedral throughout the weekend. With a wealth of street entertainment and activities at other venues, it should be a spectacular start to the festive season.

A full programme can be downloaded online at www.medway.gov.uk/dickensianchristmas or call Medway Visitor Information Centre on 01634 843666 for more details.

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JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

Running until Sunday January 4
Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone

HOLLYOAKS heartthrob Jake Hendriks takes up the axe to star in Jack and the Beanstalk.

The actor is appearing as Jack in the pantomime at Maidstone's Hazlitt Theatre, which its run last weekend. He will be leading a cast of top quality entertainers in the festive extravaganza which follows a timeless story of bravery and greed.

Young Jack and his mother are cursed with poverty and poor land, but things get even worse when Jack is sent to sell their precious cow at market and returns with just a handful of beans. His claim that the beans are magic is of little comfort to his distraught mother, but when they sprout an enormous beanstalk leading to a magical land above the clouds, their luck begins to change.

Hendriks played Father Kieron Hobbs in the teen soap opera until earlier this year, when his character met a grisly end at the hands of friend Niall.

Tickets are priced from £6.95 to £12.50. To book call the box office on 01622 758611 or visit the website at www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk.

THE MERCURYMEN

Monday December 8
Zebra Bar, Maidstone

THE next Maverick@Zebra showcase is not to be missed, as the headline act comes with high recommendation.

The Mercurymen have a number of celebrity fans, including Coldplay, Brian Wilson and Ryan Adams, and they are tipped to be one of next year's big pop success stories.

Having toured incessantly throughout this year and opened for the likes of Level 42, Melody Gardot and Deacon Blue, the band is now preparing to release its first album in February.

Jinder, Simon Johnson and Gavin Wyatt were already quietly making a splash as solo performers before coming together in 2006.

Wyatt met the legendary producer Mickie Most at just 21 and spent the next four years learning the craft of songwriting from a great.

Guitar prodigy Johnson joined the Most stable after taking lessons with British guitar hero Albert Lee.

The former lead singer of Candlefire, Jinder has been described by Radio 1's Zane Lowe as "a significant new talent".

The special guest will be London-based singer/songwriter Lotte Mullan.

The gig starts at 8pm and tickets cost £10 in advance or £12 on the door. To book call 01622 744481.

MICHAEL THOMPSON

Saturday December 6
Mote Hall, Maidstone

MAIDSTONE Symphony Orchestra continues its 98th season of concerts at Mote Hall with an appearance by soloist Michael Thompson.

Under music director Brian Wright, the orchestra will be performing works by Sibelius, Richard Strauss and Tchaikovsky. Thompson is acknowledged as one of the world's leading horn players.

After studying at the Royal Academy of Music, he was appointed principal horn with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra at just 18 and was principal horn with the Philharmonia Orchestra for 10 years.

His work as music director, soloist or conductor has taken him all over the world, and five years ago he was appointed principal conductor of the City of Rochester Symphony Orchestra.

As a member of the London Sinfonietta he has given many first performances. He has played on the soundtracks for blockbuster films such as the Lord of the Rings and Harry Potter movies, has worked with Sir Paul McCartney and is a Fellow and Aubrey Brain Professor of Horn at the Royal Academy of Music.

Tickets for the concert, sponsored by the Saga Group, are priced from £5 to £21. To book 01622 736392 or 0845 155 2277 or visit www.mso.org.uk.

MAIDSTONE LEISURE

Tin Soldiers on stage to earn their stripes

RISING Kent band Tin Soldiers will be performing at the Zebra Bar in Maidstone next week.

The four-piece will be supporting Tokyo Jo on Wednesday, December 10, alongside Gunner Sgt and Monday Night Project, for an evening of great indie/rock music.

Find out more about Tin Soldiers online at www.myspace.com/tinsoldiersband.

Doors open at 7.30pm and tickets cost £5. For more information visit www.myspace.com/soundsatzebra.

Panto stars and martial arts on the Pantiles

STARS of Aladdin, the Assembly Hall Theatre's pantomime, will be meeting fans in Tunbridge Wells on Saturday.

The Pantiles hosts an oriental extravaganza throughout the day, with martial arts displays and a chance to meet Aladdin, played by GMTV's Toonattik star Anna Williamson. Join her on the magic carpet at 3.30pm as she tells tales from the classic story, Arabian Nights.

The cast will be appearing at the Corn Exchange from 2pm to 4.15pm. For more details visit www.thepantilesonline.co.uk.

Jumbo Gumbo to play sounds of Louisiana

FOR an evening of 'Louisiana get up and dance party music', head down to the Druids Arms tomorrow night.

Kent-based Zydeco band Jumbo Gumbo will be appearing at the pub in Earl Street, Maidstone, at 9pm on Thursday. To hear live sound clips and find out more about the band visit www.jumbogumbo.co.uk.

For more details about the venue call the pub on 01622 758516.

Enjoy a juicy selection of hits from the 60s

LEGENDARY band Juicy Lucy will be demonstrating why they are still fresh at a gig in Aylesford this week.

With its roots in the late 60s, the band plays great original material and is still winning fans in the 21st century. Find out more about them online at www.juicylucyinfo.co.uk.

Juicy Lucy will be playing at the Lower Bell in Chatham Road at 8.30pm on Friday. To find out more call 01634 861127 or visit www.lowerbell.com.

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ON GENERAL RELEASE

FOUR CHRISTMASES (12A)

Be prepared for a crazy Christmas. Reese Witherspoon and Vince Vaughan star as a couple whose plans for an exotic Christmas are thrown into disarray when the airport becomes fog-bound. Instead, they find themselves forced to attend four separate family celebrations on the same day.

BODY OF LIES (15)

A dramatic thriller starring Leonardo DiCaprio as a CIA agent who has tracked a suspected terrorist in Jordan. Now he must trust those he feels will deceive him to get the job done. Also starring Russell Crowe and directed by Ridley Scott, Body Of Lies is a tense thriller.

CHOKE (18)

From maverick author Chuck Palahniuk (Fight Club) and new writer-director Clark Gregg comes the subversively comedic tale of Victor Mancini, con artist, sex addict, colonial village re-enactor, angst-filled son, serial restaurant choker – and unsuspecting romantic anti-hero for our unsettling times.

Angelina's change of heart

■ BY **JULIA HUNT** AND **KATE WHITING**

ANGELINA Jolie is one of the most distinguished actresses of her generation.

She embodies the grace and beauty of the old-style Hollywood belles as well as being an earth mother to her six children and devoted partner of actor Brad Pitt.

The 33-year-old seems to play each role – in life and on the big screen – with deft aplomb, ensuring that what is private remains private, but giving her all to each character she plays.

She becomes so embroiled in each performance, in fact, that when she first read the script for her latest role, as single mother Christine Collins in Changeling, she turned it down.

Upsetting

"When I read the script, I could not put it down and then I said 'No'. Immediately. I did not want to go near this project because it was too upsetting.

"But then I couldn't stop talking about her," Angelina, elegant in grey, explains.

"I found myself sitting with people and wanting them to know about this extraordinary woman that you wouldn't believe what happened to her and what these people did to her."

Changeling, the latest work from legendary actor-turned-director Clint Eastwood, tells the story of Christine, whose son Walter disappears without a trace in 1928 Los Angeles.

Five months later, a child who claims to be her son is returned by police, who are keen to win credit for a job well done.

Dazzled by flashbulbs and overwhelmed by reporters, Christine agrees to take the boy home, even though she knows it is not her son.

RETHINK: Angelina Jolie first turned down the role of Christine Collins in Changeling

Her campaign to find the real Walter continues, but in Prohibition-era LA, women don't stand up to the system and she is sent to a mental institution.

Christine's long battle against the corrupt system eventually changed the course of the city's history.

"I found it very inspiring in the end," Angelina continues.

"It became a story about democracy in action, a story about justice, about suffering a great loss and fighting through it and making a change for the future, for other people and questioning government and the police.

"Christine had to walk a very fine line and then, when she did speak out, they locked her in an institution, so she had this real struggle to try to behave with these corrupt people."

Angelina gave birth to twins in July this year, and they are apparently asleep in her room at London's Claridge's when we meet. Knox and Vivienne are the latest additions to her and Brad's brood but were still just a glint in their mother's eye while she was filming.

The actress says that her other children – Maddox, seven, Pax, four, Zahara, two – who were all adopted – and two-year-old Shiloh, her first child with Brad, were a comfort to her during the harrowing shoot.

"I had my kids with me as much as possible at lunch and after doing a day at work I would run home," she reveals.

"I just wanted to be silly. It was so emotional that I found myself being really goofy. I was so happy that I knew where my kids were and they were OK."

For an actress at the top of her game, it seems unusual, then, that Angelina plans to bow out of the business. But her family clearly comes first.

"I'm not making some big retirement announcement, but I have a big family and I have a lot of responsibility at home.

"Maybe I'll make a film once a year and then maybe once every two years, and then maybe eventually I'll stop."

CHANGELING
Certificate 15

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Deer design bauble, price £5

THE PIER
Snowflake glass bauble, price £3.50

PAST TIMES
Set of six large Victorian cat baubles, price £18

NEXT
Set of six vintage glass baubles, price £10

NEXT
Set of 100 red baubles, price £20

MAIDSTONE SHOPPING

Wrap up warm with a big saving on gowns

WRAP up on those cold winter nights with dressing gowns from La Senza.

The Fremlin Walk store is offering a range of designs with prices starting from £18. Plain hooded robes can be picked up for £18, or for a full length dressing gown £30.

For those special occasions a black glitter knit cardigan is £25 and for the festive season a reindeer design shawl short robe is £18.

To see the selection on offer visit www.lasenza.co.uk.

Youngsters can get on their bike for a lot less

HALFORDS is offering kids bikes and BMXs for half price.

Shoppers can get an extra ten per cent off all bikes when they reserve online, and collect and pay in store.

Vibe Envy girls BMX bikes are £69.99 down from £139.99 and boys X-rated Hustle BMX is £109.99 from £169.99.

For more information or to reserve a bike visit www.halfords.com or your nearest store at Aylesford Retail Park.

Buy two decorations and get the third free

MARKS and Spencer is offering three-for-the-price-of-two on mix-and-match Christmas decorations.

Clear snowflake lights, angel LED lights and hanging diamond lights are all priced at £2.80.

Red and white traditional spruce wreaths are £12, silver sequin garlands are £12, bronze sequin wreaths are £12 and gold pine core wreaths are £7.60.

To see the selection of decorations log on to www.marksandspencer.com or visit the Week Street store in Maidstone.

Big is beautiful, as the new party range shows

HEAD down to Evans and check out the new party wear selection.

Black sleeveless prom dresses are £60, grey tie-dye print dresses are £55 and black sleeveless maxi dresses are £50.

Shoppers can pick up a brown leopard print boob-tube for £25 and a sequin trim crotchet bolero is now £25 down from £35.

To see the selection of dresses, shoes, tops and trousers head down to your nearest store in King Street or visit www.evans.co.uk.

Glass of wine to help you mull over your purchase

DISCOVER a world of unusual Christmas gifts and delicious Italian treats at a special shopping event at Carluccio's.

Shoppers who go along to the cafés in Tunbridge Wells and at Bluewater from 6pm tomorrow will receive a ten per cent discount on a selection of products. They will be welcomed with a complimentary warming glass of vino cotto (traditional mulled wine) and piccoli assaggi (festive canapés).

Carluccio's products are also available online at www.carluccios.com.

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- Cleaning Tablets that make 5 Litres of Universal Cleaning Detergent

To order this product (code 7575) visit www.yourkenttv.co.uk/readeroffers/12845 or call 0845 165 1004
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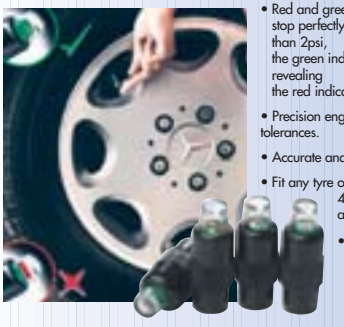

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YOUR TV REVIEW

DAILY SHOW WITH JON STEWART
More 4, 8.30pm, weeknights
HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR YOU
BBC One, 9pm, Friday

BY **TOM BETTS**

AS the presidency of George W Bush enters its final days, I think it's fair to say that there won't be many who mourn the end of his time in office too much.

Some are already calling the Texan 'the worst president ever', but for comedians, satirists and impressionists everywhere, the final decline of Dubya will prove a real loss.

For Jon Stewart, current king of the American TV schedules, it will be a sad day indeed.

The golden boy of liberal America has long since overtaken the likes of Letterman and Leno in his lampooning of the president.

Meanwhile, as the man revered by so many for sticking it to Dubya, he's even scored a role hosting Oscars night, and the keys to a million educated female hearts into the bargain.

The Daily Show has now been on our screens for some considerable time, too, not that you would know it thanks to criminal under-promotion.

More 4 bagged it up and stuck it on for us all to wonder at, but the show faces a big challenge with the impending arrival of Barack Obama in the Oval Office.

It could be seen as party-pooping if the jokes start flying at the expense of the man many regard as the chosen one, especially as, being the first black president, he looks set to enjoy a post-election honeymoon period most politicians would kill for.

In a way, Stewart has much in common with the team of Have I Got News For You, back on BBC One for series number 36. In these times of British voter apathy and low turnout, the likes of Ian Hislop and Paul Merton perhaps form as effective an opposition as the shadow cabinet, for half an hour a week at least.

VOTE-WINNER: More 4's The Daily Show with Jon Stewart is one of television's hidden gems

But while HIGNFY is still a mainstay of the schedules – and deservedly so – is it not about time they found a regular presenter?

With Boris Johnson now in what passes for serious mode, he won't be back for a guest host slot and for every good host, like Alexander Armstrong, there's an embarrassing turn by Anne Widdecombe or Joan Collins.

Not that any of this has blunted the tongues of Ian Hislop or Paul Merton, who remain as sharp as they have ever been.

Politics – it's the new rock'n'roll. Haven't you heard?

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE BY RUSSELL GRANT

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)
A PASSION packed love affair gives you a sexy glow that makes friends, family and fellow workers sit up and take notice. Nothing puts a spring in your step like love. An unexpected expense could force you to cancel arrangements, but you won't let it get you down for long.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)
AN old friendship could blossom into new romance with very little encouragement. You're not sure why you've developed such a strong desire for the person in question. Perhaps you're getting tired of the people you usually fall for and fancy something a little different.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)
CAREER concerns put you in the spotlight, which is exactly where you like to be. Being offered a plum position is proof your boss is impressed with your talent. It may be necessary to train with someone older as a means to learn the business from the ground up.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)
A BURNING desire to travel may prompt you to book a trip. If you're single, you're sure to find romance on this journey. You could be drawn to someone who is much older or younger than you. This age difference seems to enhance your relationship, not detract from it.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753

GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)
MONEY from an inheritance or legal settlement gives you a chance to make home improvements. If you don't own a home, think about buying one. Although you hate being tied down it's usually a good idea to have a secure base. A close friend or partner could lose their job.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754

CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)
Someone close gives you the drive to go back to school. Learning a foreign language or taking up new technological skills will be stimulating and frustrating. Stick with it, all good things take time and perseverance. A legal decision could come as an utter surprise.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755

LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)
YOUR job puts you in touch with some highly creative people. Being around writers, painters, or actors may inspire you to begin an art project. Your imagination is your most precious treasure. If you stick to this path, you might even be able to sell your work for a handsome profit.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756

VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)
YOU yearn to go on an overseas journey with your lover, or in search of a lover. Exotic surroundings will fan the flames of your mutual passion. Don't impose your family's values on your beloved. Just because you were raised to think a certain way doesn't mean it's right.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757

LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct23)
HOME is where the heart is. Entertaining friends and family brings out the best in you. You're the type of host who is able to let go and have a good time after your guests arrive. That's probably why your parties are so successful. Resist the urge to tell a colleague what you really think.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)
YOU could get some good news regarding a female friend or relative. A fun night on the town will let you forget all of the frustrations that have been building for the past few weeks. An official from a humanitarian organisation may offer to write you a recommendation.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759

SAGITTARIUS (Nov23-Dec21)
NORMALLY you don't care much about your personal presentation or what you wear, but this week you'll want to make a good impression on a potential employer. If you look the part of a professional, you'll be more likely to land a well paid position.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)
THIS is a great time for learning and studying. If you want to boost your qualification apply for a place on a training course now, while the stars are behind you. Complicated technology has a nasty way of breaking down just when you need it most. Be sure to back up your files.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

Calls cost 75p per minute. Service provided by g8wave London N7

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CROSSWORD & SUDOKU No65

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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

EASY

3	8	5		6				
2						3	7	
				3	9		8	
	9				6	4		7
5	2		4		3		6	8
4		6	9				3	
	1		6	9				
	3	2						9
				1		2	4	6

MEDIUM

	1		8	7				
		2		6				8
	8				5		6	
		9	5					1
8	4						9	6
1					4	8		
	6		9				2	
7				4		9		
				2	1		4	

HARD

		4						2
2	6				5		3	1
				8				
		1	5					6
		6	3		1	2		
8					2	5		
				5				
1	8		9				5	7
6						4		

CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

1 Prudish tract ladies removed (6-5)
9 Trip up giving a shout of pain when it has not been cultivated (6)
10 Eat another loaf or scone (7)
12 Get back to put the lid on again (7)
14 Resort to drugs singularly and be ruined (2,2,3)
15 Bar-room dart damaged cap (11)
16 Service long way back (1,1,1)
17 Title of man in middle of vice squad (3)
19 Arrangement by priest and choir before written records (11)
22 King entered vessel put in order (5,2)
23 Intellect prepared having fixed attitude (7)
24 Alan's replacing silver put into pasta! (7)
25 Partly crazy, got ecstatic with cell (6)
26 Founding charitable organisation (11)

DOWN

2 Melted tarmac runs under vehicle (7)
3 Matters been deposited by rivers (7)
4 Pull westwards (3)
5 Eye defect, one brand (11)
6 Previous one with lieutenant Edward had been placed in a position of respect (7)
7 Jay ruined spare porcelain (6)
8 Fierce cat, it destroyed document (11)
11 Urgent summons to action on the clarion? (7-4)
13 Tree from India? (6,5)
18 Feeling swell when at sea? (6)
19 Penny put a cloth on model (7)
20 Drunk performing inside before the end of the day (7)
21 Father leaves French city with German fellow to get Italian dish (7)
25 Fuzz, it covers spot (3)

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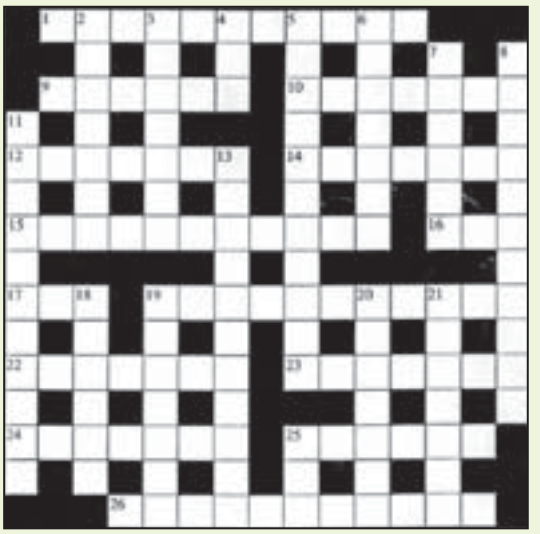

QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

1 Compatible (4-7)
9 Seized (6)
10 Flickering (7)
12 Aperture (7)
14 Racing (7)
15 Went ahead of oneís turn (5-6)
16 Yea (3)
17 Ovum (3)
19 Youngster fond of pop-music (5-6)
22 Phoenixís state (7)
23 Extremely reckless (7)
24 Old shoe fastening (7)
25 Smooth stone (6)
26 January 1st (3,5,3)

DOWN

2 Elusive (7)
3 Brown coal (7)
4 Astern (3)
5 Green pigment of plants (11)
6 Decorated with white fur (7)
7 Confirm the truth (6)
8 With a strong desire to act (5-6)
11 Capable of being overcome (11)
13 Luxuriantly (11)
18 Merrymaking (6)
19 Metrical foot (7)
20 Passenger-carrier (7)
21 Kneecap (7)
25 Vegetable (3)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No64

EASY

3	6	1	2	7	8	4	9	5
7	8	9	6	5	4	1	2	3
4	5	2	3	9	1	6	8	7
9	4	8	5	2	6	3	7	1
5	1	7	4	8	3	9	6	2
6	2	3	9	1	7	8	5	4
8	9	4	7	3	5	2	1	6
1	7	6	8	4	2	5	3	9
2	3	5	1	6	9	7	4	8

MEDIUM

7	9	3	5	1	4	8	2	6
6	5	1	2	9	8	7	3	4
8	2	4	3	6	7	9	1	5
5	3	7	4	8	9	1	6	2
9	1	2	6	3	5	4	7	8
4	6	8	7	2	1	3	5	9
1	7	5	8	4	6	2	9	3
3	8	6	9	7	3	5	4	1
2	4	9	1	5	2	6	8	7

HARD

8	2	5	6	3	1	9	4	7
7	9	4	2	8	5	1	3	6
6	1	3	9	7	4	8	5	2
4	6	9	5	1	2	7	8	3
2	7	8	4	6	3	5	9	1
5	3	1	7	9	8	2	6	4
3	8	2	1	4	9	6	7	5
1	4	7	8	5	6	3	2	9
9	5	6	3	2	7	4	1	8

Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No64

ACROSS: 1 Jingoistic 6 Scow 9 Comet 10 Calm 11 Saki 13 Ladies-in-waiting 14 Radiance 16 Advice 18 Floppy 19 Shoulder 22 Religious orders 24 Lobe 25 Limb 26 Exist 27 Gaga 28 Interstate. **DOWN:** 1 Jocular 2 Nomad 3 On the rampage 4 Succinct 5 In-laws 7 Clarified 8 Wriggle 12 Hindquarters 15 Doodlebug 17 Chasuble 18 Foreleg 20 Rosette 21 Potion 23 Eliza.

QUICK SOLUTION No65

ACROSS: 1 Well-matched 9 Caught 10 Lambert 12 Orfice 14 Running 15 Queue-jumped 16 Yes 17 Egg 19 Teeny-bopper 22 Arizona 23 Lunatic 24 Latchet 25 Pebble 26 New Years Day. **DOWN:** 2 Evasive 3 Lignite 4 Aft 5 Chlorophyll 6 Crimined 7 Verity 8 Stage-struck 11 Conquerable 13 Exuberantly 18 Gaiety 19 Trochee 20 Omnibus 21 Patella 25 Pea.

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In search of the real Holland

BY **SIMON ROBINSON**

I'D LIKE to extend my gratitude to the rowdy group of English tourists who accompanied me on my flight to Amsterdam.

Had it not been for their oh-so-stereotypical Brits abroad 'banter' throughout the entire one-hour journey, I may have been tempted to spend another weekend in the Dutch capital rather than continue on to The Hague as planned.

Luckily, the middle-aged mob's mantra – smoking cannabis and making countless sorties into the red-light district – served only to reinforce my desire to search out a deeper, truer side of Holland.

And that's what I found in The Hague.

The country's third-largest city, known by its inhabitants as Den Haag, provided the backdrop for a perfect city break.

The good people at the Dutch and The Hague tourist boards laid on a packed programme of culture, fine eating, contemporary Brazilian dance/puppetry and drunken dancing on a bar (although this last activity was not originally part of the schedule).

Here's how I spent my time:

FRIDAY: Having arrived in Holland shortly after 11am, less than 30 minutes later we pulled into The Hague Central Station and set off on foot for our hotel, which was conveniently placed near a thriving district of high-street shops, intimate boutiques and restaurants.

Having settled in, we made our way via tram to our first tourist destination, the miniature world of Madurodam.

The outdoor visitor attraction plays home to dozens of meticulously accurate replicas of the area's most recognisable landmarks.

Dinner was taken at the oriental-styled Restaurant Puck, which served up an array of modern fish and meat dishes, all of which was cooked up in the busy, open-view kitchen.

DONE AMSTERDAM? If so, visit The Hague, which offers superb museums, galleries and a lively bar and restaurant scene

SATURDAY: Having taken in a range of modern art at the Gemeentemuseum we were then given the chance to take in some Dutch classics at the Mauritshuis, Holland's Royal Picture Gallery.

The compact museum boasts priceless works from the likes of Rembrandt and Johannes Vermeer, including the latter's most famous piece, Girl With A Pearl Earring.

While the modern art at our first stop was 'interesting', it's hard to gaze upon a bundle of screwed-up paper or two thick, parallel lines on a white canvas with the same admiration as a 300-year-old masterpiece.

With lunchtime fast approaching, we made our way to the delightfully regal Hotel Des Indes for high tea.

Next on the agenda was a whistle-stop tour of The Hague, taking in the city's most prominent buildings.

Highlights included Queen Beatrix's Paleis Noordeinde (official work palace) and the beautiful Binnenhof buildings, which house the Dutch parliament.

The tour was wrapped up with a traditional bite to eat – raw herring with onions. Despite being not much of a fish fan, the Dutch delicacy went down well.

We spent our evening at the Candance Festival taking in a Brazilian contemporary dance/puppetry show, which was less pretentious than the description implies.

The plot loosely centred on the Wizard of Oz, complete with ruby-red slippers and a 6ft foam puppet of the Wicked Witch. Don't ask.

Drinks were then taken at a cosmopolitan pub, where end-of-the-night dancing on the bar seemed like a good idea at the time.

SUNDAY: Hangover. Breakfast. Bus ride to the historic city of Delft. With its ancient canals, churches and city walls, it gives visitors a chance to take in Holland of old.

The 13th-century city, the birthplace of painter Johannes Vermeer, boasts the wondrously-named Oude Kerk (old church) and Nieuwe Kerk (new church), open market-place and miles of peaceful canals.

It proved the ideal place to wind down from a long weekend.

FACT FILE: THE HAGUE

Travel details

From London to Amsterdam, KLM operates up to 16 routes a day between London Heathrow and London City Airport. Fares start at £118 per person return, including taxes.

For more information and to book, log on to www.klm.com, phone 08705 074 074, or visit your local travel agent.

From London Gatwick to Amsterdam, British Airways operates up to five flights per day.

Fares start at £100 per person return.

For more information and to book, log on to www.britishairways.com, phone 0844 493 0787, or visit your local travel agent.

From Amsterdam Airport Schiphol you can take the train to The Hague Central Station; direct trains depart every 30 minutes with a journey time of 31 minutes.

Cost of one-way ticket is 7.30 euros.

Netherlands Board of Tourism and Conventions
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PROPERTY NEWS

Better news for the first-timers

THE head of a firm specialising in working with first-time buyers says the prospect for the market is improving.

Paul Holmes, chief executive of First-rung, claimed the falling prices of homes meant that more and more properties were coming within the reach of buyers.

However, he added that those who are looking to get on the housing ladder need to ensure their jobs are safe – and will need a larger deposit than previously of about 15 to 20 per cent.

"The good news is that while they [first-time buyers] are saving up for the deposit, house prices will continue to fall and come more in line with affordability and their expectations," said Mr Holmes.

But he added the first stage for newcomers to the market would be them having to save "furiously" for the deposit because of its increase since the credit crunch took hold.

Agents demand action from top

ESTATE agents are calling on the Government to inject some life into the housing market by taking action to help the beleagured business.

A poll by the National Association of Estate Agents showed 54 per cent had no confidence in the Government, and the body is calling for more interest rate cuts and a suspension of stamp duty.

The most recent findings when it comes to property analysis have prompted the call.

The number of sales per agent was up from six to seven – still historically low – and the number of first-time buyers taking a part in the market increased.

However, there was a seven per cent fall in the number of house-hunters on estate agents' books to 196.

Prices dive slowing

THE rate at which house prices are falling eased in November, according to analysts.

The average cost of a home dropped by just 0.4 per cent during the month, compared with a slide of 1.3 per cent during October, according to the Nationwide Building Society.

HOPEFUL: As sellers are becoming more realistic about the new value of their homes, vendors and surveyors are anticipating a genuine improvement in market conditions

Reality check brings optimism to market

LEVELS of home-buying are still falling, but estate agents claim that they are seeing some early positive signs of recovery in the property market.

■ BY **NICK AMES**

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors' (Rics) market survey for October points to a slight upturn in prices – although that is from what was an extreme low.

The main factor found to be depressing prices was the large stock of unsold properties and limited numbers of buyers – but not a surge in forced selling, as a high number of recession-fuelled repossessions has yet to feed into the market.

The number of completed sales per surveyor was also down.

But the feeling of hope across the market is improving, with more analysts expecting an upturn than had a positive outlook at the start of the autumn.

On average the number of sales per surveyor fell from 11.5 to 10.9 – the lowest on record since 1978 and a fall of 53.6 per cent on a year ago.

Surveyors had on average 80.7 properties on their books.

Rics spokesman Ian Perry said: "The interest rate cut should certainly help support the market now lenders have agreed to pass on the reduction to borrowers.

"Even so, the general lack of mortgage finance remains a major blockage in the housing market for a large majority of would-be buyers."

Along with the two per cent drop in interest rates in two months, surveyors did see some glimmer of hope.

Twenty per cent more chartered surveyors expect an upturn in sales over the next three months, a rise from just four per cent in September.

The increase in optimism is reflected in part by an increasing trend of vendors dropping asking prices, but it may also be a sign there are expectations of a jump in the number of repossessions.

"Many vendors have finally started to accept current market conditions and are dropping their asking prices to achieve a sale," Mr Perry said.

"Sales should increase in the coming months as more and more sellers understand greater realism is the only way to make that long-desired move."

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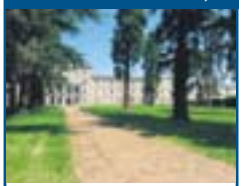

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WOMEN seeking men

LOVELY SUSIE
Sensitive, shy, caring lady, 20, loves life, sunsets, beaches, country walks, romantic meals, cinema, WLTM handsome gent to find love with. Box 446323

SINGLE DAD WANTED
Single mum, 23, nice and curvy, 5ft6, blonde/blue, likes shopping, cinema, animals, WLTM honest and trustworthy male, 28-38. Box 446099 T

I LOVE FOOTBALL
Fun-to-be-with, blonde female, 25, 5ft2, loves football(!), going out and staying in, looking for like-minded man to be my soulmate. Box 446494 T

MAYBE MORE
Seeking fun, friendship, maybe more. WLTM fun man 25-30. I'm female, 26, brown hair/blue eyes, average build. Box 445622 T P

SNUGGLE UP
Tall, attractive, good-hearted African female, 28, enjoys films, good food and cuddles, wltm white male for friendship/romance. Box 441654 T

DON'T LET ME DOWN
Pretty, black female, 38, 5ft4, like football, socialising and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male, 38-42, for a LTR. Box 446684 T

FROM ME TO YOU
Tall leggy brunette, 38, recently bereaved, enjoy meals out or nights in, dry white wine, a good movie & cuddles, seeking a male for companionship. Box 887404

DON'T PASS ME BY
Cute, single mum of 4, 38yrs old, Kent based, into most things, looking for friendship or possibly romance. Box 897983 T

YOUNG-AT-HEART
Attractive 38yr old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curvy physique, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walking, cycling, seeks loving, fun male, for friendship/relationship. Box 901893 T P

BLONDE AMBITION
Bubbly, cuddly, blonde single mum, 38, 5'6", likes cars, reading, pubs, cosy nights in, having a laugh, looking for that right male for LTR. Box 905614 T P

ENTHUSIASM ENCOURAGED!
Lovely pretty big-busted lady, 39, medium build, 5ft5, lots of energy! likes the gym, reading, new experiences! seeking nice man for potential exciting relationship! Box 446724 T

ANIMAL LOVER?
Nurse, 37yrs, 2 kids, 5ft8, blonde, blue eyes, likes the gym, cooking, swimming, salsa, looking for kind, caring, loyal male Box 431557 T

FAIRY TALE ENDING
Good-looking slim blonde, 42, tired of kissing frogs, seeking an intelligent, solvent professional male to be my prince. Box 446521 T

WHITE ROSES
Very attractive female, 42, slim, green eyes, high cheek bones, wicked SOH! Loves to make people laugh, seeking intelligent, well-mannered, kind man. Box 446543 T

BORN TO MAKE YOU HAPPY
Caring lovable lady, 42, genuine, short brown hair, lacks confidence! seeking loyal, genuine person, someone special to put the spark back into my life. Box 885761 T

YOU NEVER KNOW
Kind, loving, caring mum, 43, 5ft5, round but cuddly! Just looking for someone to share my life with...how about you? Box 446457 T

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THIS STATE OF INDEPENDENCE
Hard-working female, 41, 5'4", bubbly, independent woman, love to laugh, socialising with friends, looking for independent man who values TLC. Box 414156 T

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS
Laid-back single mum, very bubbly, outgoing and intelligent, 43, enjoys social life, drinks, meals, cinema; looking to start afresh with someone new, easygoing and life-loving. Box 446102 T

LOVELY JOSEPHINE
Passionate and fun-loving 43yr old female, enjoys clubbing, meals out and cooking, WLTM a male to share evenings out with. Box 445225 T

ATTRACTIVE
Professional female, 43, enjoys dancing, walking, reading and cooking, WLTM intelligent professional male, who can hold a good conversation, for a relationship. Box 444282 T

LOVING, CARING & HONEST
Hard working single mum, young 44yr old, 5ft5, medium build, enjoys dining out, holidays, cinema and walks, WLTM a caring and genuine male for friendship/relationship. Box 444751 T

INTERESTED? GIVE ME A CALL
Homely traditional lady, 44, 5ft8, slim-medium build, non smoker, love life, animals, my dog!, walks along the harbour, country pubs, WLTM similar gent for romance... Box 446277 T

GENUINE REPLIES ONLY
Bubbly female, 44, brunette, n/s, medium/large build, enjoys singing and theatre. Would love to meet a decent fun-loving guy, similar age, pref non-smoker for LTR. Box 445955 T

MISS JULIE
Bubbly blonde, 44, stupid and like having a laugh, good company, friendship, would like to meet new friends for hopeful love... Box 888162 T

DEAL OR NO DEAL? (IN DEAL)
Deal-based lady, 43, divorced, brunette, green eyes, 5ft10, likes going out, pubs, clubs, cinema, shopping, walks, loves films and all sports except cricket. Box 430384 T P

COULD IT BE YOU?
Hi I'm 44, slim, 5ft8, a redhead, love nights out, socialising, looking for friendship initially and hopefully more later on. Box 889800 P

HERE WE ARE
Easygoing female, 45, self-employed hairdresser, likes theatre, restaurants, socialising, sofa cuddles, seeking loyal, loving, caring male for good times and more. Box 444672 T

MAKE ME LAUGH!
Fun extrovert person, 45, likes cinema, going out, meals, socialising, 5ft7, dark brown hair/eyes, curvy, seeking nice guy to start off as friends. Box 442905 T

EVERLASTING LOVE
Beautiful black female, 46, WLTM a caring, gentle and loving gentleman, 45-60, 5ft10+, pref a bit sporty, for a everlasting relationship. Tunbridge Wells Box 445407 T

ETERNALLY YOURS
Easygoing woman, likes most things in life; country walks, films, cinema, cooking. I'm 46, 5ft2, medium build. WLTM genuine, happy guy, easygoing and fun. Box 445635 T

WE'LL SEE
Blonde hair/blue eyes, 5ft5, slim build, looking for friendship, maybe more. I'm a nice woman, 47, seeking good male, for friendship, possibly more. Box 445932 T

SANDY SEEKS DANNY
Slim, petite Sandy, 46, brown hair, green eyes, no ties, loves socialising, eating out etc, GSOH, seeking trustworthy, honest man for partnership and mutual affection. Box 440100 T

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?
Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 444366 T

MAKE ME LAUGH, MAKE ME YOURS
Single 47yr old lovely female, 5ft5, slim build, blonde hair, blue-green eyes, seeking male for potential LTR, must have GSOH! Box 885288 T

ALL THAT I NEED
Young-looking, slim, attractive female, 48, fun-loving, outgoing, N/S, GSOH, love music, holidays, going out, staying in, seeks similar man, 42-50. Aylesford. Box 428833 T

JUST IMAGINE
Petite, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, WLTM genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 893562 T

WHERE R U?
Cheerful, honest, popular blonde, 50yrs old, 5ft2, slim build, looking to find an honest, loyal man that can make me happy again. Box 887347 T

DIG DEEPER
Genuine, friendly female, 49, likes walks, gardening, nights in/out, seeking genuine, friendly male, 45-55. Dover Box 435441 T

ARE YOU MY MR RIGHT?
Independent, honest, caring and genuine smoker, 53, medium build, GSOH, likes socialising, travelling, WLTM a genuine and honest male for friendship, companionship, maybe a LTR. Box 887442

LOVING & HAPPY-GO-LUCKY
Jovial, caring female, 51, 5'3", brown hair, hazel eyes, own business, wltm nice, tall, good looking gent for laughter, life and love. Box 926614 T

NOTHING VENTURED...
New to this, I'm a 53yr old woman, seeking loving, tactile man. I enjoy walks, countryside, having fun, nights in and out. Box 446282 T

SEEING THROUGH THE SHYNESS
Attractive female, 53, intelligent, kind, funny, non-smoking, WLTM nice, kind, normal male, 50-60, for theatre, laughs and more. Box 446383

ARE YOU MY BOND... JAMES BOND?
Kind, caring, attractive lady, young 53, 5'7", slim, brown hair/eyes. N/S, GSOH, enjoys walking, reading, travel, socialising; seeking tall, considerate, honest gent for hopeful LTR. Box 446079 T

SEEKING SOULMATE
Gorgeous slim attractive young-looking female, 54, active, wicked SOH, 5ft5, blue eyes, sociable, loves music, dancing, travelling; seeking warm, sincere man for genuine companionship. Box 446634 T

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!
African lady, 58, likes reading, current affairs and travelling, WLTM an outgoing, fun-loving and honest male to share the rest of my life with. Box 445122 T

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SOPHISTICATED SUE
Sue, 56yr old, 5ft4, green eyes, petite, loves cooking, holidays, reading and swimming, wltm a tall professional male, similar age, for friendship and romance. Box 443309 T

DANCE WITH ME?
Slim, blonde, female, 57, interested hugely in live music of all genres, eating out, pubs (with music!). Looking for companionship initially. NOT looking for marriage! Box 887517 T P

HELP!
Positive, vivacious female, 59, 5ft4, enjoys art, seaside walks and music, seeks tallish, kind, caring male to grow old with...disgracefully. Box 444943 T

DESPERATELY SOUGHT BY SUSAN!
Sue, 60, 5ft2, caring and bubbly, like walks, the theatre and eating out, looking for that special male, 59-64, N/S, who can make me laugh. Eastbourne Box 446135 T

FRESH AIR
Smart, attractive, bubbly blonde, 71, medium build, N/S, own house, GSOH, lives on coast, enjoys most things, WLTM smart gentleman for friendship, maybe more. Box 438147 T

Women seeking women

FRIENDSHIP, MAYBE MORE
Curvy bi female, 32, seeks like-minded woman, for friendship, hopefully more. Single mum, work part time. Box 886142 T P

LOVELY JO
Young-looking attractive female, 54, n/s, friendly and sociable, love music, dance and history, warm and sparkly, WLTM a genuine female for a close female friendship. Box 445146 T

MEN seeking women

SECRET SMILE
Young guy, 19, dark complexion, enjoys socialising, cinema, pubs and clubs. Looking for a girl to go out and enjoy life with. Box 446706 T

AIMING TO PLEASE!
Down to earth guy, 19, slim build, 6ft, green eyes, romantic, likes to socialise and hoping to meet new people, especially 'the one'! Box 446740 T

ALL THE GOOD THINGS
Hi I'm Rob, 22, 6ft3, short dark hair, hazel eyes, enjoys cinema, cosy nights in, cinema, sports; seeking female 20-28 with GSOH for LTR. Box 446646

BLUE-EYED BOY
5ft8, blond-haired, blue-eyed, average-build guy, 23, likes hanging out with friends, trying new things, meeting new people, seeking similar girl for mutual love. Box 888422 T P

FOR LOVE
Hard-working male, 29, 5ft10, dark hair, brown eyes, medium build, plays harder! likes going/eating out, walks, pubs, loves life, seeking similar happy, trustworthy lady. Box 442752 T

LIFE IN THE FAST LANE
Man of adventure, 31, enjoys exploring, trying new things, being active, GSOH, good listener, seeking similar female to spend life with. Box 445879 T

LOOKING FOR YOU
Normal down-to-earth guy 5ft9, short hair, brown eyes, medium build, 34, love to meet female any age for outgoing, fun, friendly times and maybe more. Box 446154 T

LOVING
Outgoing male, 34, loves bowling and cosy nights in, WLTM an outgoing, bubbly and kind-hearted female to spend the rest of my life with. Box 445567 T

HERE WE ARE
Loving, caring male, 36, likes restaurants, drinks, works hard, non smoker, WLTM young lady 25-36, no ties, for lasting relationship. Box 446582 T

TIME TO TIME
Italian origin male, 36, tall, dark hair and eyes, loves good fun, very handsome, seeks bubbly, outgoing lady to take out and spoil. Box 446589 T

NON-SMOKING
Separated male, 36, 6ft, good looks and SOH, kind, caring and sensual, into films and fitness. Seeking a cutie to share life and love with. Box 445729 T P

EVERYTHING I DO
Lee, driver, 36yr old, 6ft3, dark hair, like pubs, clubs, wine bars, places of interest, sports and reading, wltm a woman for friendship and romance. Box 889720 T

YOUR TIME IS COMING
Maidstone male, 35, dark blond hair, dark eyes, nice looking, have 1 little girl, own business, varied interests, looking for a fun lady, under 40 Box 429375 T

R U 4 ME?
Down-to-earth, loyal guy, 36, looking for companionship, leading to a long-term relationship. Enjoys meals out, good company, conversation, cosy evenings in. Box 914917 T P

HOP ON!
Hi, I'm Mark, 6ft, slim/medium build, lots of interests including motorcycles, WLTM a kind and honest female to share fun times and laughter with. Box 445124 T P

YOUR KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOUR
Decent genuine guy, 39, 5ft8, brown hair and eyes, good looking, seeking someone genuine, fun, and good company to be with forever. Box 446593 T

TRUE HONESTY, TRUE LOVE
Decent genuine guy, 39, 5ft8, brown hair and eyes, good looking, seeking someone genuine, fun, and good company to be with forever. Box 446581 T

LOVE ON THE DANCEFLOOR
Outgoing young-minded male, 47, a smoker, likes war games, books, cinema, castles, POI, seeking similar woman to boogie on the dancefloor with. Box 443750 T

HONEST AND KIND
Down-to-earth male, great personality, 41, 6ft, medium build, loves the countryside, wine bars, cinema, sports; seeking female with great personality, honest and trustworthy. Box 446596 T

R WE THE SAME
Sporty single dad, 41, 5ft8, blue eyes, enjoys most things in life, looking for a genuine woman for friendship and more. Box 446093 T

SOON TO BE DIVORCED
My name is Steve, 41yrs young, 5ft7, normal build, looking for good company and fun with a female of height. GSOH is a must! Box 885615 P

MAKE IT A LOVELY DAY
Hi, I'm Carl, 40, GSOH, 6ft, light green eyes, brown hair, looking for a fun, bubbly woman to share laugh, days out and much more. Box 436696 T

HONEST AND LOYAL
42yr old guy, new in town, 5ft8, muscular build, been hurt in past, looking for someone similar to move on in life with. Hastings Box 446668 T

THE FIRST KISS
Liverpudlian male, 43, loves football, works for NHS, loves fun and going to movies, seeking female to share dates, maybe more. Box 446633 T

A NICE GUY
Hello, I'm Jim, 6ft, 44, interests include; eating out, cinema and swimming, WLTM a lady with similar interests and gsoh. Box 445650 T

I'LL MAKE YOU LAUGH
Very romantic, caring and loyal male, 44, slim, blue eyes, fair hair, great SOH, seeks female with similar interests for hopeful LTR. Box 446120 T

DAD'S THE WORD
Lonely single male, 44, 6ft2, fair hair, great SOH, quite happy but looking for a lady 30-60 to have fun with and hopefully something else. Box 446452 T

HAPPY TOGETHER
White male, 46, 5ft7, easygoing, n/s, loves a laugh, enjoys theme parks, concerts, romantic walks, wltm a female to be happy with. Kids no problem. Box 444339 P

TC NEEDED ASAP
Genuine hard-working male, 47, slim, good looking, 5ft8, into most things...sports, pubs, meals, socialising, walks, travel...WLTM honest, loyal female, for TLC. Eastbourne. Box 444244 T P

GIVE IT A SHOT
Slim/medium build guy, 48, own home, looking for a girl to settle down with, likes going out and cosy nights on the sofa. Box 446699 T

ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR!
Youthful dad, 45, 5'10", brown hair, med build, divorcee, likes pubs, cinema, restaurants, theme parks, wltm female, 36-45, slim, for possible LTR. Cranbrook Box 737529 T P

PUPPY LOVE
Dog-loving guy, I'm 47, 5ft8, with short hair/green eyes, slim build. I love gardening, country walks, sports - football/tennis, DIY, animals. Box 428800 T

ALL TYPES WELCOME
Fit male, 49, 5ft7, brown eyes, short hair, muscly, likes football, sport, walking' I'm outgoing, seeking a similar woman for good times. Box 446719 T

LARGER THAN LIFE
50yr old gentle chap, likes eating in, out, cinema, walks and music, seeking cuddly, nice, mature buxom female for friendship. Box 446721

MY HEART WILL GO ON
Genuine, young-at-heart man, 50, likes eating in/out, cinema, music, country walks, wltm a nice, cuddly lady, 60-70. Box 440903 T

WAITING FOR YOU
Fun-loving and laid-back male, 50, 6ft4, slim/medium build, smoker, enjoys cinema, music, travel, country pubs, seeking female 40-46 for fun, romance & LTR. Box 443869 T

READ THIS!
50yr old man, looking for black lady, 30-60. I like eating in and out, walks, music, cinema, having a laugh. Like what you read? Box 439057 T

JOIN ME, COMPLETE US
Hi, I'm 50 with two grown up kids, love country pubs, walks, life, GSOH, WLTM a nice lady to get to know of any age. Box 439922 T

CRAZY, HAPPY, DEVOTED IN LOVE
Young male, active, 52, enjoys socialising, mixing with people, chatting, having fun, cooking, music, theatre, travel, seeking like-minded female for love and happiness. Box 444040 T

ACTIVE & ATTRACTIVE
I'm 53, 5ft9, good-looking! Love sports, horses, animals generally, WLTM an honest, caring lady, preferably blonde & sporty, to get to know. Box 439296 T

LOVE ME, LOVE MY TROLLEY
Tall, dark, divorced male, 59, likes most music, dining out, cinema, seeking female to share my Tesco trolley for friendship and hopefully more. Box 444251 T

FIRST CLASS
Independent fit male, 61, 5ft11, own business, enjoys music, travelling, the sea, seeking female companion 40-50, non smoker, any origin, genuine and caring. Box 446635 T

HERE TO BE WITH YOU
Genuine, kind, affectionate male, 61, slim-medium build, 5ft11, fully domesticated! Enjoys gardening, cooking, reading, country pubs; looking for my soulmate. Box 446624 T

NUTS OVER YOU!
61yr old gent, 5ft9, slim, non-smoker, nutty but fun, nice looks, likes foreign travel, cinema, music, seeking similar nutty female for like-minded good times. Box 440173 T P

Men seeking men

FUN TIMES
35yr old male, looking for fun with an attractive man. I'm good looking, with a slim/medium build. Box 437652 T

ARE YOU INTERESTED?
Good guy, looking for male, 35-50. I'm 40, green eyes, dark hair, average build. I enjoy pubs, music, cinema, dining in/out. Box 436613 T

ARRESTING LOVE
Hi there, I'm 40, 6ft, green eyes, blond hair, own house, enjoy pubs, keeping fit, seeking similar male, sporty, for fun and maybe more. Box 436788 T

FUN TIMES TO BE HAD
Happy-go-lucky male, 50, 5ft10, blond hair, green eyes, slender build, into most things, looking for straight-acting men for friendship and more. Genuine replies only. Maidstone. Box 889297 T

FUTURE FUN, PASSION & ADVENTURE!
Separated brilliant brunette, 39, single mum, 5ft7, likes swimming and house music, WLTM a kind and considerate tall white male with dark shoulder length hair. Box 445684 T

COOK UP A STORM
Tunbridge Wells lady, brown hair/eyes, 38. I'm a teacher and love theatre, reading, cinema, swimming, travel. Looking for like minded chap for happy times. Box 444923 T

NO TIES
Lonely, bored, professional Tunbridge Wells Asian lady, 40, WLTM slim, single, solvent, professional white male 40-50 for company, fun, love and laughter. Box 443573 T

NICE TO MEET YOU
I'm Nina, 40, single mum, looking to meet a single dad, single dads welcome, for friendship and more. I like motorbikes, wildlife and the beach. Box 446679 T

COME ON OVER
Divorced female, 40, likes fishing, swimming, walking and eating out, WLTM young man, for friendship and more. Box 446097 T

TOO MUCH TO ASK?
Genuine female, 41, 5'3", brunette, brown eyes, medium build, enjoys meals out, music etc, seeks male, 38-42, for romance. Box 155275 T P

THE HOME LIFE
Happy, caring female, homely, tactile and honest. I'm black African, 41, 5ft2, medium build, and would like LTR with the right person. Box 446024 T

YOU'LL SMILE IF YOU DIAL
Bubbly 40yr old female, enjoys beaches, pubs, clubs, wltm a like-minded, caring male to share fun times with. Box 435102 T

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MOTORS NEWS

Octavia's given facelift to make it even better

SKODA is launching a revised Octavia in January 2009, with an extensive facelift, bringing the Czech marque's best-seller into line with the rest of the current range.

Prices of the new Octavia represent an average increase of £473 for the Octavia Hatch and £478 for the Octavia Estate.

Changes include dynamic, sweeping headlights and complimentary front fog lights, new foldable door mirrors and body coloured bumpers and side mouldings, plus a new look interior with better steering wheels, sound systems and upholstery.

A new 1.4 TSI 122bhp engine replaces the current 1.6 FSI 115bhp and a 2.0 FSI 200bhp engine with DSG transmission will be introduced on the Octavia vRS.

Megane awarded Euro NCAP safety award

RENAULT'S latest Megane is its 11th model to earn the Euro NCAP five-star crash test rating.

Safety kit includes: twin side-impact sensors, an innovation that debuted with Laguna III; six airbags, including two twin-chamber thorax/groin airbags; the Renault System for Restraint and Protection, which combines pretensioners and load limiters with twin-stage dual-chamber adaptive front airbags; new-generation headrests; and ABS and Emergency Brake Distribution come as standard.

Car chief makes a call for Government lifeline

CARMAKERS need Government help to mitigate the impact of a downturn that "looks certain to get worse before it gets better", says a car chief.

It was "appropriate and necessary" for the Government to support the industry, added Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders president Graham Smith.

UK support was needed over and above the proposed 40 billion euro loan package which may soon be agreed by European finance ministers.

"We must collaborate nationally to compete internationally," said Mr Smith.

"We have asked for the finance divisions of vehicle manufacturers to get access to the same special liquidity arrangements as are now available to the banks. This access to finance and credit will help to boost demand and support our retail and distribution operations."

NO LAUGHING MATTER: Despite its silly name Kia's Ceed is a serious threat to Ford, Vauxhall and Peugeot, particularly with the offer of a 100,000-mile/seven-year warranty

Sowing a Ceed of doubt in the minds of Ford & Co

KIA'S Ceed hints at why Ford, the original blue-collar brand, is trying to don a white collar.

Okay, Ceed is one of the sillier model names on the market, but nobody is laughing at the headquarters of traditional mainstream carmakers like Ford, Vauxhall or Peugeot.

This five-door Ford Focus rival looks good, feels European, is priced keenly and comes with a seven-year/100,000-mile warranty – unprecedented and still unchallenged on the UK market.

It still cannot quite match the Ford dynamically, but the gap is not so great; the interior of the Kia concedes little, while some drivers might prefer its more pliant ride.

The big question for would-be owners though is: which engine? Ceed prices start at £11,270 in supermini territory rather than Focus class, but that buys the 1.4-litre petrol 'cooking' version.

Most buyers will opt instead for a 1.6 petrol (from £11,820) or 1.6 diesel (from £12,570), but it is still a tough call because the old argument that the petrol will be more refined is undermined by the fact that Kia's 1.6 unit is only average on that front, while its two diesel sisters are silky for this class.

You pay more upfront for the diesels though and need to be confident of covering enough miles to enable the greater economy to recoup that extra cash.

There is less to ponder about the interior; after a previous generation Kia Rio – the car it replaced effectively, since the current Rio is closer to supermini class – this is a quantum leap in quality and comfort, with a decent built-in CD/audio system and steering wheel controls now arranged in the normal indicators-to-the-left 'European' way.

Try to press on with the Ceed and the forgiving suspension allows it to pitch more than a Focus or Vauxhall Astra, though it is never lacks grip or tests confidence.

If this sounds like a deal-breaker though, try the more tautly arranged three-door Proceed version.

There is also a third family member worth considering – the capacious and practical Ceed SW estate.

No wonder Ford & Co are worried.

ROAD TEST
KIA CEED

BY **STEVE LOADER**

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★☆☆
Image	★★★☆☆
Space	★★★★☆
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★☆
Reliability	★★★★☆
Green rating	★★★☆☆

• *Email steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk*

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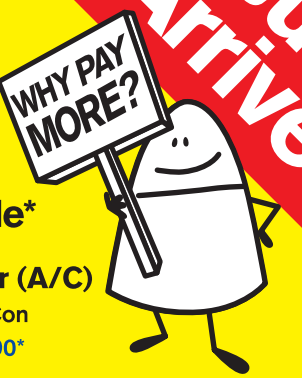

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• Cost new £14,427 • Parker's Price £7,590*

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FAIR PRICE FROM £6490

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• Met Paint • Alloys • CD • Cruise
• Also available in 'S' HDi model

SAVE £7255 AGAINST PRICE WHEN NEW**

CHOICE OF 15

FAIR SAVING £980 AGAINST PARKER'S PRICE GUIDE

07 57 Reg Peugeot
308 1.6 HDi 110 Sport 5dr (A/C)
Cost new £16,845
Parker's Price £10,570*

From £9590

47 monthly payments	Cash price	Customer Deposit	1 monthly payment
£199.51	£9590	£1600	£199.51
Final payment	**Total amount payable**	**Total charge for credit**	**APR**
£298.51	£11075.48	£1485.48	9.9%

Scoop Purchase!

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CHOICE OF 6

FAIR SAVING £2045 AGAINST PARKER'S PRICE GUIDE

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06 Reg Peugeot
407 2.0 HDi 136 S 4dr
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AutoPlanet Price £6799
Choice of 215 Large cars
A fair saving of £276

Small Cars — Choice of 255

53 to 57 Reg	Peugeot 206 - Choice of 55	£4,999
51 to 57 Reg	Renault Clio - Choice of 25	£3,999
Y to 07 Reg	Ford Fiesta - Choice of 20	£3,299
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03 to 56 Reg	Toyota Yaris - Choice of 20	£4,999
52 to 07 Reg	Vauxhall Corsa - Choice of 20	£4,799

Medium Cars — Choice of 365

05 to 57 Reg	Mazda3 - Choice of 20	£7,799
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52 to 07 Reg	Ford Focus - Choice of 40	£3,799
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54 to 57 Reg	Vauxhall Vectra - Choice of 25	£6,799
53 to 56 Reg	VW Passat - Choice of 10	£5,499

MPVs — Choice of 140

54 to 57 Reg	Peugeot 807 - Choice of 10	£9,999
04 to 08 Reg	Renault Scenic - Choice of 10	£5,699
Y to 07 Reg	Citroen Picasso - Choice of 20	£3,799
05 to 08 Reg	Ford Focus C-Max - Choice of 10	£6,499
53 to 08 Reg	Vauxhall Zafira - Choice of 20	£5,499
54 to 07 Reg	VW Sharan - Choice of 15	£9,999

Prestige Cars — Choice of 85

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52 to 07 Reg	BMW 3 Series - Choice of 10	£6,299
53 to 06 Reg	Jaguar X-Type - Choice of 20	£8,299
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Sports & 4X4s — Choice of 85

54 to 07 Reg	Mazda MX-5 - Choice of 10	£9,799
04 to 07 Reg	Mazda RX-8 - Choice of 15	£9,499
05 to 56 Reg	Honda CR-V - Choice of 10	£10,599
Y to 06 Reg	Land Rover Freelander - Choice of 10	£5,499
54 to 55 Reg	Nissan X-Trail - Choice of 5	£8,999
51 to 55 Reg	Toyota Rav4 - Choice of 15	£5,799

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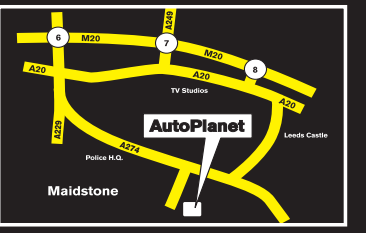

* Cheaper than Parker's Guide retail prices on selected models only. Parker's franchised retail price for a nearest match specification. † 10.9% APR applies to selected models. Fair deal finance example based on an 07 57 Peugeot 307 1.6 16v S 5dr (A/C) subject to status and age. ** Saving based on current new car list price of a 07 57 Peugeot 307 1.6 16v S 5dr (A/C) £14427 inc. metallic paint and 08 Mazda MX-5 1.8i 2dr £15605 inc. metallic paint. Terms and conditions apply. This is a limited offer subject to availability, the company reserves the right to withdraw the offer at any time. Offer available on selected cars upon request at commencement of the sales process. Ask your local dealer for further information. AutoPlanet are licensed credit brokers. Written details available upon request. Finance is subject to status, guarantees/indemnities may be required. Cars shown for illustrative purposes only. All prices correct at time of going to press. Monthly payment options available on all cars. Written quotations on request, subject to status, applicants must be over 18. In most cases the customer may not be the 1st registered owner on the registration documents. Address: 1 Lea Valley Road, Chingford, London, E4 7PX.

USED CAR ROUND-UP:
OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

DISTINCTIVE MIDI-MPVS

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IN 1997, Renault tried a bit of lateral thinking with the 'people carrier' concept it pioneered with the Espacé and came up with the 'midi' or 'compact' MPV (multi-purpose vehicle). The result was the original five-seat Scenic, the blueprint for even more vehicles than the original Espacé inspired, and the impetus for waves of tall, space efficient 'MPV styling' across the whole car market. As one of the new car market's boom sectors over the past few years, it means there is also plenty of choice for user car buyers.

FIAT MULTIPLA

EARNING top marks with the motoring press for originality when it arrived in 2000, the original Multipla proved simply too wacky looking to generate the sales it deserved. A facelift made it more visually acceptable and its practical qualities began to shine. Relatively compact, it allows six to be seated comfortably and there is plenty of stowage space.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★☆
Looks and image	★★★☆☆
Space	★★★★☆
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★☆
Reliability	★★★☆☆
Quality	★★★☆☆

CITROEN XSARA PICASSO

NO apologies for including the Picasso – it quickly trumped Renault's pioneering Scenic to become the best-seller in the new sector. It's only a five-seater, but the 'jelly mould design' smoothes the edges of a commodious and flexibly equipped box. The range features excellent turbodiesels and has a good reliability record. Plenty of choice on the used market too.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★☆☆
Looks and image	★★★☆☆
Space	★★★★☆
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★☆☆
Reliability	★★★★☆
Quality	★★★☆☆

HONDA FR-V

THOUGH late into this sector, Honda had time to review the market and decided that Fiat got it right with the Multipla. So the FR-V is another short, wide six-seater with two rows of seats, but not as roomy as the Fiat. Buyers like the peace of mind Honda's engineering gives and how the dash-mounted gearshift creates room in front.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★☆☆
Looks and image	★★★☆☆
Space	★★★★☆
Value	★★★☆☆
Running costs	★★★☆☆
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★☆

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CITROEN

07 07 CITROEN C3 1-6 SX AUTO PAS AIR/C GREY METALLIC 450 MILES.....£7995
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06 56 CITROEN PICASSO 2-0 EXCLUSIVE AUTO SILVER 5000 MILES.....£9995
05 55 CITROEN PICASSO 2-0 EXCLUSIVE AUTO WICKED RED 17000 MILES.....£7995
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05 05 CITROEN C4 1-6 SX AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER MET 19000 MILES.....£6995
04 04 CITROEN PICASSO 2-0 DESIRE AUTO SILVER METALLIC 18000 MILES.....£5995
04 04 CITROEN C3 1-4 SX AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE 30000 MILES.....£4995

LAND ROVER

04 54 LAND ROVER FREELANDER 1-8 XEi BLACK AIR/C 5 SPD 38000 MILES.....£6995

DAIHATSU

07 07 DAIHATSU SIRION 1-3 SE AUTO PAS AIR/C MET GOLD 6000 MILES.....£6995
03 53 DAIHATSU CHARADE 1-0 SL 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR MAUVE 33000 MILES.....£3695

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06 06 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER 5DR TOURING SILVER BIRCH 6000 MILES.....£7995

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08 57 MAZDA 3 TS 5DR AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C ICE BLUE 6000 MILES.....£8995
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07 56 MAZDA 3 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C WINNING BLUE 11000 MILES.....£7995
06 06 MAZDA 3 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C WINNING BLUE 15000 MILES.....£7495

SKODA

08 08 SKODA ROOMSTER 2 AUTO PAS AIR/C MET GREY 450 MILES.....£9995
07 07 SKODA ROOMSTER 2 AUTO PAS AIR/C MET GREY 995 MILES.....£8995

HONDA

06 56 HONDA JAZZ 1-4 SE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS 7000 MILES.....£9995

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06 06 HYUNDAI MATRIX 1-6 GSi PAS AIR/C AUTO MINT SILVER 10000 MILES.....£5995
06 06 HYUNDAI MATRIX 1-6 GSi PAS AIR AUTO SHIMMER BLUE 10000 MILES.....£5995

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06 06 NEW YARIS 1-3 T SPIRIT 3 DR AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 8000 MILES.....£7995
05 55 OLD YARIS 1-3 T SPIRIT 5 DR AUTO PAS ICE BLUE ALLOYS 14000MILES.....£7995
05 55 OLD YARIS 1-3 T SPIRIT 5 DR AUTO PAS SILVER ALLOYS 4000 MILES.....£8495
05 55 YARIS VERSO T3 AUTO PAS SUNROOF CHAMPAGNE 6000 MILES.....£8495
05 05 YARIS VERSO T SPIRIT AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS SILVER 14000MILES.....£8995
05 05 YARIS VERSO T SPIRIT AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS SILVER 13000MILES.....£8995
05 05 YARIS VERSO T SPIRIT AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS GREEN 23000MILES.....£7995

NISSAN

07 57 NISSAN NOTE 1-6 ACENTA AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE 12000 MILES.....£8995
06 56 NISSAN NOTE 1-6 SE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C DARK BLUE 15000 MILES.....£8495
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06 55 NISSAN MICRA 1-4 SVE 3DR AUTO PAS AIR/C PACIFIC BLUE 8000MILES.....£6495
06 55 NISSAN ALMERA 1-8 SE AUTO PAS 5DR SILVER 6000 MILES.....£6495
06 06 NISSAN MICRA 1-2 S 5 DR AUTO PAS SILVER BIRCH 10000 MILES.....£6495
05 55 NISSAN MICRA 1-4 SVE 3DR AUTO PAS AIR TECHNO GREY 8000MILES.....£6495
05 55 NISSAN MICRA 1-4 SVE 3DR AUTO PAS AIR/C COOL BLUE 12000MILES.....£6495
05 55 NISSAN MICRA 12 SE 3DR AUTO PAS AIR/C COOL BLUE 11000MILES.....£5995
05 55 NISSAN MICRA 1-2 S AUTO PAS 5 DR BLADE SILVER 4000 MILES.....£5995
05 55 NISSAN MICRA 1-2 S AUTO PAS 5 DR BLADE SILVER 14000 MILES.....£5995
05 55 NISSAN ALMERA 1-8 SE AUTO PAS 5DR MERLOT RED 15000 MILES.....£5995
05 55 NISSAN ALMERA 1-8 SE AUTO PAS 5DR CAYMAN BLUE 16000 MILES.....£5995
05 05 NISSAN TINO 1-8 S AUTO PAS TECHNO GREY METALLIC 15000 MILES.....£5995
05 05 NISSAN TINO 1-8 S AUTO PAS BLACK METALLIC 53000 MILES.....£3995
04 54 NISSAN MICRA 1-2 SE 5 DR AUTO PAS BLADE SILVER 5000 MILES.....£5995
03 53 NISSAN TINO 1-8 S AUTO PAS MERLOT METALLIC 17000 MILES.....£4995
03 03 NISSAN MICRA 1-0 S 3 DR AUTO PAS RED 6000 MILES.....£3995

SUZUKI

05 54 SUZUKI JIMNY JLX + AUTO PAS ALLOYS BLUEISH BLACK 12000 MILES.....£4995
05 55 SUZUKI IGNIS 1-5 GL 5 DR AUTO PAS METALLIC GREY 21000 MILES.....£4995

MINI

03 53 MINI 1-6 COOPER AUTO PAS RED SAT NAV TLC 55000 MILES.....£7995

MG ROVER

04 04 ROVER 45 1-8 CONNOISSEUR BLUE LEATHER ALLOYS 8000 MILES.....£6995
03 03 ROVER 45 IMPRESSION AUTO PAS AIR/C NIGHTFIRE RED 43000 MILES.....£3995
04 53 ROVER 25i XL 5 DR AUTO PAS BRG /BLACK LEATHER ALLOYS 15000M.....£4995
03 33 ROVER 25i XL 5 DR AUTO PAS SILVER LEATHER TRIM ALLOYS 30000M.....£4995
01 51 ROVER 45 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C NIGHTFIRE RED 35000 MILES.....£3695
Y 01 ROVER 25i L 5 DOOR AUTO PAS SUNROOF BLUE 26000 MILES.....£2995

CHEVROLET & DAEWOO

07 57 CHEVROLET TACUMA 2-0 CDX AUTO PAS AIR MET BLUE 4000 MILES.....£6495
07 07 CHEVROLET TACUMA 2-0 CDX AUTO PAS AIR MET BLUE 4000 MILES.....£5995
07 56 CHEVROLET TACUMA 2-0 CDX AUTO PAS AIR MET BLUE 7000 MILES.....£5995
07 56 CHEVROLET LACETTI 1-6 SX AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 4000 MILES.....£5995
06 56 CHEVROLET MATIZ -80 SE AUTO PAS BLUE METALLIC 5000 MILES.....£4995
06 56 CHEVROLET MATIZ -80 SE AUTO PAS BLUE METALLIC 600 MILES.....£5295
07 07 CHEVROLET KALOS 1-4 SX AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 3000 MILES.....£6995
06 06 CHEVROLET KALOS 1-4 SX AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 8000 MILES.....£6495

VOLKSWAGEN

07 57 VW POLO 1-4 S 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/C ALLOYS BLACK 6000 MILES.....£9995
07 57 VW POLO 1-4 S 3DR AUTO PAS AIR/C ALLOYS BLACK 7000 MILES.....£8995
07 07 VW POLO 1-4 S 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 12000 MILES.....£9495
07 07 VW POLO 1-4 S 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/C CORNFLOWER BLUE 3000 MILES.....£9495
06 56 VW POLO 1-4 S 3DR AUTO PAS AIR/C CORNFLOWER BLUE 3000MILES.....£7995
06 56 VW POLO 1-4 S 3DR AUTO PAS AIR/C CORNFLOWER BLUE 7000MILES.....£7995
05 55 VW POLO 1-4 S AUTO 3DR BLACK AIR SUNROOF 13000 MILES.....£7495
04 54 VW LUPO 1-4 E AUTO PAS SILVER 3DR 27000 MILES.....£4995
04 04 VW POLO 1-4 TWIST AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/ MET RED 18000 MILES.....£5995
99 V VW GOLF 1-9 TURBO DIESEL SE AUTO PAS MET GREEN 53000 MILES.....£4995

KIA

05 05 KIA RIO 1-3 LE PLUS 5 DR AUTO PAS BERRY BLUE 8000 MILES.....£4995
04 54 KIA MAGENTIS 2-0 LE AUTO PAS 4 DR BLACK 25000 MILES.....£4995

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06 56 MONDEO 2-0 ZETEC ESTATE CAR AUTO PAS AIR BLACK 8000 MILES.....£9995
04 54 MONDEO 2-0 ZETEC ESTATE CAR AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 20000 MILES.....£7495
02 02 MONDEO 2-0 GHIA X AUTO PAS 5 DR GOLD LEATHER 46000 MILES.....£4995

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07 57 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ESTATE METRO BLUE 2000 MILES.....£9995
07 57 NEW ASTRA 16 DESIGN AUTO PAS AIR/C ALLOYS SILVER 5000 MILES.....£9995
07 07 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C ESTATE PANACOTTA 6000 MILES.....£7995
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06 06 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C POMME RED 7000 MILES.....£6695
06 06 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ALLOYS ESTATE SILVER 11000 MILES.....£7995
05 55 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS 5DR HATCH SILVER METALLIC 10000MLS.....£5995
06 06 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ALLOYS ESTATE BLACK 6000 MILES.....£7995
05 05 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ALLOYS ESTATE GREEN 13000 MILES.....£6995
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05 05 ZAFIRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS CD AIR/C SILVER 14000 MILES.....£6995
05 05 ZAFIRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS CD AIR/C SILVER 26000 MILES.....£6995
05 05 MERIVA 1-6 ENJOY AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 7000 MILES.....£6995
05 05 ZAFIRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS CD AIR/C SILVER 19000 MILES.....£6995
05 54 ZAFIRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS CD AIR/C DARK BLUE 12000 MILES.....£6495
04 53 VECTRA 2-2 SXi AUTO PAS AIR/C 4 DR GREEN MET 27000 MILES.....£5495
00 X ZAFIRA 1-8 COMFORT AUTO PAS GREEN 55000 MILES.....£3995

RENAULT

07 07 SCENIC GRAND DYNAMIQUE 2-0 AUTO PAS AIR/C GREY 1000MILES.....£9995
07 07 MEGANE 1-6 DYNAMIQUE AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 9000 MILES.....£7995
06 56 SCENIC DYNAMIC 1-6 AUTO PAS AIR/C QUARTZ GOLD 14000 MILES.....£7995
06 56 MEGANE DYNAMIC 2-0 CONVERTIBLE AUTO PAS 17000 MILES.....£9995
06 06 RENAULT KANGOO 1-6 EXPRESSION BLUE PAS AUTO 4000 MILES.....£6695
05 55 SCENIC DYNAMIC 1-6 AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 7000 MILES.....£7495
05 05 MODUS 1-6 DYNAMIC AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR PURPLE 33000 MILES.....£4995
05 05 LAGUNA 2-0 DYNAMIQUE AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 30000 MILES.....£6995
05 05 MEGANE 1-6 EXPRESSION ESTATE CAR AUTO PAS AIR BLUE 9000MLS.....£6995
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07 07 C180 KOMP AVANTGARDE SE 4 DR AUTO PAS SILVER 13000 MILES.....£16996
06 56 C220 CDi AVANTGRDE DIESEL SE EST AUTO PAS BLUE 16000 MILES.....£18995
06 56 NEW A CLASS 150 CLASSIC SE AUTO PAS 5DR BLUE 2000 MILES.....£10995
06 56 A CLASS 160 CLASSIC SE DIESEL AUTO PAS 5DR GOLD 2000 MILES.....£11995
06 06 C180 KOMPRESSOR SE COUPE AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 15000 MILES.....£13995
06 06 C180 KOMPRESSOR CLASSIC AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE 18000 MILES.....£13995
06 06 C180 KOMPRESSOR CLASSIC AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 26000 MILES.....£13995
06 06 C180 KOMPRESSOR CLASSIC AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 16000 MILES.....£13995
06 06 C180 KOMPRESSOR CLASSIC AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 18000 MILES.....£13995
05 55 NEW ACLASS 150 AVANTGARDE SE AUTO PAS SILVER 20000 MILES.....£9995
05 55 C180 KOMP ELEGANCE SE AUTO PAS SILVER LEATHER 19000 MILES.....£14995
05 05 C180 KOMPRESSOR AVANTGARDE AUTO PAS BLUE 5000 MILES.....£13995
05 05 NEW A CLASS 150 CLASSIC SE AUTO PAS 5DR GREEN 19000 MILES.....£8995
05 05 NEW A CLASS 150 CLASSIC SE AUTO PAS 5DR GOLD 18000 MILES.....£8995
05 05 C180 KOMPRESSOR ELEGANCE SE AUTO PAS BLUE 21000 MILES.....£13995
05 05 C180 KOMPRESSOR ELEGANCE SE AUTO PAS BLUE 9000 MILES.....£13995
05 05 MERC 270 CDi DIESEL CLK SILVER ALLOYS LEATHER 48000 MILES.....£16995
03 53 VANEO 1-6 FAMILY ESTATE AUTO PAS RED AIR/C 29000 MILES.....£6495
02 52 MERC 240 CLK AVANTGARDE AUTO PAS ALLOYS SILVER 8000MILES.....£12995

FIAT

05 05 PUNTO DYNAMIC SPEEDGEAR AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR BLUE 9000 MILES.....£5495

PEUGEOT

07 07 PEUGEOT 206 1-6 LOOK 5 DR AUTO PAS ONYX BLACK 2000 MILES.....£8495
06 56 PEUGEOT 307 S AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER METALLIC 9000 MILES.....£8495
06 56 PEUGEOT 206 SW 1-6 VERVE AUTO ESTATE CAR SILVER 1000 MILES.....£8495
06 06 PEUGEOT 307 S AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE METALLIC 11000 MILES.....£7995
06 06 PEUGEOT 206 SPORT 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C AGEAN BLUE 7000 MILES £7995
05 55 PEUGEOT 206 1-4 S 5 3R AUTO PAS AIR/C MOONDUST 10000 MILES £6995
05 05 206 SW ESTATE QUICKSILVER AUTO PAS AIRC GREY MET 15000MILES£7495
05 05 PEUGEOT 307 SE ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR/C BRONZE 16000 MILES.....£7995
05 05 PEUGEOT 206 1-4 S 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C DIABLO RED 9000 MILES.....£6995
05 05 PEUGEOT 206 1-4 S 3 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C AGEAN BLUE 21000 MILES.....£6495
05 05 PEUGEOT 206 1-4 S 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER RED 33000 MILES.....£5495
04 54 PEUGEOT 206 1-4 S 3 DR AUTO PAS SILVER AIR/C 19000 MILES.....£5995
04 53 PEUGEOT 307 1-6 S 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 19000 MILES.....£4995
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Plate	Model	Engine	Mileage	Colour
FABIA				
GK55XKL	FABIA CLASSIC 5DR HATCH	1.2 12V 70BHP (PETROL)	14582	DYNAMIC BLUE
GK03LVL	FABIA COMFORT 5DR HATCH	1.4 16V AUTO (PETROL)	14710	ADMIRAL BLUE
GL54HYC	FABIA ELEGANCE 5DR HATCH	1.4 16V 100BHP (PETROL)	14290	SATIN GREY
GX02VOY	FABIA ELEGANCE 5DR HATCH	2.0 MPI (PETROL)	70334	STONE GREY
GN03XJD	FABIA ELEGANCE 5DR HATCH	2.0 MPI (PETROL)	14864	DIAMOND SILVER
CV06AFU	FABIA VRS 5DR HATCH	1.9 TDI 130BHP (DIESEL)	40318	BLACK MAGIC
GJ57WCE	FABIA 1 5DR HATCH	1.2 12V 70BHP (PETROL)	6581	TANGERINE ORANGE
GJ08YLU	FABIA 2 5DR HATCH	1.2 12V 70BHP (PETROL)	6242	STORM BLUE
KS57EHD	FABIA 2 5DR HATCH	1.4 TDI 80BHP (DIESEL)	5874	SATIN GREY
GJ08VBE	FABIA 3 5DR HATCH	1.4 TDI 80BHP (DIESEL)	7687	FLAMENCO RED
WP05KTX	FABIA CLASSIC 5DR ESTATE	1.2 12V 64BHP (PETROL)	14706	DIAMOND SILVER
GJ55OVP	FABIA AMBIENTE 5DR ESTATE	1.2 12V 64BHP (PETROL)	19902	DIAMOND SILVER
GF55UKC	FABIA AMBIENTE 5DR ESTATE	1.2 12V 64BHP (PETROL)	23600	GRAPHITE GREY
GJ05WYV	FABIA AMBIENTE 5DR ESTATE	1.9 TDI100BHP (DIESEL)	36801	GRAPHITE GREY
Y506TKM	FABIA ELEGANCE 5DR ESTATE	1.4 16V 100BHP (PETROL)	65220	DIAMOND SILVER
GL08DDY	FABIA 1 5DR ESTATE	1.2 12V 70BHP (PETROL)	3845	STORM BLUE
GJ08VBF	FABIA 2 5DR ESTATE	1.4 16V85BHP (PETROL)	TBA	STORM BLUE
ROOMSTER				
GJ08VBK	ROOMSTER 2 5DR MPV	1.6 16V105BHP (PETROL)	7032	OLIVE GREEN
GJ08YLR	ROOMSTER SCOUT 5DR HATCH	1.9 TDI 105BHP (DIESEL)	2386	POLAR BLUE
OCTAVIA				
GF56DXZ	OCTAVIA CLASSIC 5DR HATCH	1.6 16V 115BHP (PETROL)	27221	CORRIDA RED
GL07TTY	OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 5DR HATCH	1.9 TDI 105BHP (DIESEL)	12828	CORRIDA RED
GL07CFV	OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 5DR HATCH	1.9 TDI 105BHP (DIESEL)	14006	BLACK MAGIC
GL07CFJ	OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 5DR HATCH	1.9 TDI DSG 105BHP (DIESEL)	13396	CAPPUCCINO BEIGE
KS57EEA	OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 5DR HATCH	1.9 TDI 105BHP (DIESEL)	10585	BRILLIANT SILVER
GJ08VAU	OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 5DR HATCH	1.9 TDI 105BHP (DIESEL)	5505	SATIN GREY
KS54HHX	OCTAVIA ELEGANCE 5DR HATCH	1.9 TDI 105BHP (DIESEL)	35951	GRAPHITE GREY
GL57YKV	OCTAVIA ELEGANCE 5DR HATCH	1.9 TDI 105BHP (DIESEL)	3501	SATIN GREY
HT54LSV	OCTAVIA ELEGANCE 5DR HATCH	2.0 TDI 140BHP (DIESEL)	92398	STORM BLUE
GK08ZNX	OCTAVIA L&K 5DR HATCH	2.0 TDI 140BHP (DIESEL)	4807	BLACK MAGIC
GK05OJY	OCTAVIA VRS 5DR HATCH	1.8 20V TURBO 180BHP (PETROL)	32082	DIAMOND SILVER
GF57HKO	OCTAVIA VRS 5DR HATCH	2.0 TDI 170BHP (DIESEL)	3751	CORRIDA RED
LT52SNN	OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 5DR ESTATE	1.6 MPI (PETROL)	39486	DIAMOND SILVER
GJ08VAV	OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 5DR ESTATE	2.0 TDI DSG 140BHP (DIESEL)	6046	STORM BLUE
GL08XRC	OCTAVIA L&K 5DR ESTATE	2.0 FSI AUTO 150BHP (PETROL)	TBA	ISLAND GREEN
GJ08YLX	OCTAVIA L&K 5DR ESTATE	2.0 TDI DSG 140BHP (DIESEL)	TBA	BRILLIANT SILVER
SUPERB				
OU03OPF	SUPERB ELEGANCE 4DR SALOON	2.8 V6 (PETROL)	54292	SAHARA BEIGE
GJ55OUX	SUPERB ELEGANCE 4DR SALOON	1.9 TDI130BHP	21822	SAHARA BEIGE
KV57BVX	SUPERB ELEGANCE 4DR SALOON	2.0 TDI 140BHP (DIESEL)	11277	BLACK MAGIC

All prices will be revealed on site at 8.00am on Monday 8th December

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SPIDER, 3.2 V6, gj57ffy, alloy wheels, anti-lock brakes, climate control, drivers airbag, electric windows, leather interior, metallic paint, passenger airbag, power steering, remote central locking, side airbags, tinted glass, traction control, trip computer, blue, 9000 miles, £20995, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

AUDI

A4, 1.9tdi 130 se estate, 2003, blue m with grey cloth, 67000 miles, £8950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

BENTLEY

ARNAGE, red label auto, 2001, blenhiem silver with black leather, 50000 miles, £44950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

BMW

3 SERIES, 1.6i Saloon 4d 1596cc, l316hmo, mot---11/04/08 good runner, green, miles, £695.00, DCD Autos, ASHFORD, 01233 642211 (TRADE)

7 SERIES, 735I AUTO, 2002, oxford green metallic with beige nappa exclusive, 79000 miles, £11950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

CADILLAC

CTS, cts 3.6 sport luxury v6, 2005, light platinum with black leather, 22379 miles, £12950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

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CARAVAN SPRITE ALPINE, 4 berth, 15ft long, awnming, shower, portaloo, stabilising bar, very good condition. £695 ONO tel: 07725 952521

CHEVROLET

CAPTIVA, LTX 2.0, gk08orw, finished in denim blue with black interior, blue, 4000 miles, £22995, Caffyns Chevrolet T Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

CHRYSLER

300C, 5.7v8 auto estate, 2007, brilliant crystal met with dark and light slate gr, 10577 miles, £18950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

CITROEN

CITROEN BERLINGO 800, 04 2005, 1.9d lx white pas 43.000 miles fsh lined, £3995, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

C2, 1.4i Cool 3dr, 2007, 1.4i cool 3dr hatch sp eds, poseidon blue, 7500 miles, £6595, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

C-CROSSER, 2.2 HDi Exclusive 5dr, 2007, 2.2 hdi exclusive 5dr diesel estate, blue, 100 miles, £19995, Wilmoths Folkestone, Folkestone, 01303 245 588 (TRADE)

C1, 1.0i Vibe 3dr, 2006, 1.0i vibe 3dr hatch, red, 9525 miles, £4995, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

DISPATCH, 2.0 HDi Enterprise Van 900Kg, 2005, 2.0 hdi enterprise van 900kg diesel, silver, 42190 miles, £6495, Barretts Citroen, Canterbury, 0845 3709768 (TRADE)

NEMO, 1.4 HDi X [SLD], 2008, 1.4 hdi x [sld] diesel, white, 1000 miles, £7495, Wilmoths Folkestone, Folkestone, 01303 245 588 (TRADE)

SAXO, 1.4i SX 3dr Auto, 1999, 1.4i sx 3dr auto hatch, polar white, 40669 miles, £1795, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

XSARA, LX DIESEL, 2002, met red, 87186 miles, £3395, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

FIAT

PUNTO, active 1.2, 2003, silver, 45000 miles, £2995, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

SCUDO EL, 05 2000, 2.0 jtd 3 seats twin doors white 119.000 no vat, 0 miles, £2400, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

CINQUECENTO, m/1994, manual locking manual windows, red, 74, 000 miles, £was £695 now £595, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

COUPE, 2.0 16v, 1995, red, 72451 miles, £1995, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

MAREA, TD 100 SX Weekend, 1998, red, 106000 miles, £995, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

FORD

C-MAX, 1.6TDCi Style 5dr (2007 -), 29/09/2007, cd player abs driver airbag power steering electric windows, silver, 4694 miles, £9500, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Ghia, 2004, panther black, 35600 miles, £5995, CB Motors, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 Zetec 5dr, ak08tpj, air conditioning, alloy wheels, side airbags, radio/cd. insurance group:7, black, 16 miles, £11990, SMC Ford Crayford, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

FUSION, 1.6 TDCi Plus 5dr (2005 -), 31/01/2008, cd player abs driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, blue, 6747 miles, £10000, Invicta Motors, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

GALAXY, 1.8 TDCi Zetec 5dr [6] (2006 -), 01/03/2008, silver, 13299 miles, £15500, Invicta Motors, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

KA, Zetec Climate, 2008, moondust silver, 0 miles, £6995, CB Motors, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 1.8 TDCi Titanium 5dr [6] (2007 -), 17/12/2007, blue, 7709 miles, £18000, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

S-MAX, 1.8 TDCi LX 5dr [5] (2006 - 2008), 05/03/2008, silver, 15159 miles, £14000, Invicta Motors, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

TRANSIT, High Roof Van TDCi 115PS, bt56yze, warranty. white, 39999 miles, £13490, SMC Ford Crayford, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

HONDA

CIVIC 5 DOOR, 30/06/2005. cd player driver airbag power steering electric windows, silver, 22955 miles, £6000, Invicta Motors, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

HYUNDAI

ACCENT, Gsi 5dr, gk52ymp, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, rear wash/wipe, stereo, aluminium silver, 60000 miles, £2699, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

COUPE, SE 1975cc 3 door, 2006, cd player air conditioning alloy wheels central locking approved driver's airbag power steering history check electric windows, silver, 17200 miles, £7995, Pomphrey's of Sittingbourne, Sittingbourne, 01795 476222 (TRADE)

GETZ, CDX 5dr, cv08avc, blue, 3000 miles, £7995, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

MATRIX, 1.6 GSi 5dr Auto, 10/05/2006, red, 36597 miles, £4999, Invicta Motors, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

JAGUAR

XJ V8, 4.0 soveriegn lwb, 2002, seafrost blue met with catkin leather interior, 71000 miles, £9950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

JEEP

GRAND CHEROKEE, 1997, green, 180000 miles, £2995, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

KIA

CARENS, 2.0 CRDI GS 5dr, gl07jwp, air-conditioning, abs + ebd, air, cd player. insurance group:10, red, 17900 miles, £9994, SMC Mitsubishi Sittingbourne, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

SORENTO, XS 2.5, gl06vcx, finished in blue with interior, blue, 16000 miles, £10985, Caffyns Tunbridge Wells Vauxhall, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

LAND ROVER

DEFENDER, 90 2.5P Hard Top, e611vog, tow pack, radio cassette, power steering, 4x4, road tax (plg) is £185 per year on this vehicle. blue, 57000 miles, £4995, Diesel Centre, Staplehurst, 01580 890333 (TRADE)

MAZDA

6S, 2005, blue metallic, 19299 miles, £6495, WJ King Vauxhall, Bromley, 020 8464 3456 (TRADE)

MERCEDES-BENZ

C CLASS, C180k Avantgarde SE, 4763314, alloy wheels, cubanite silver, 14000 miles, £17995, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

MG

MGF, MG TF LE500 Special Edition 135, 58, petrol, orange, 10 miles, £16398, SMC Mitsubishi Sittingbourne, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

MINI

COOPER S, 1.6 3 DR, 2002, trim: cloth engine size: 1600 transmission: manual no. of doors: 3, blue, 42000 miles, £9395, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

MITSUBISHI

COLT, 1.5 Sport, 2004, black, miles, £6995, Masters Group Mitsubishi Bromley, Beckenham, 0208 6587122 (TRADE)

NISSAN

MICRA, 1.2 SE Automatic, 2004, techno grey, 22500 miles, £4995, CB Motors, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

PEUGEOT

106, independence, 2001, met green, 28000 miles, £2495, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

PORSCHE

911 CARRERA 4, 2002, meridian silver with blue leather, 46000 miles, £29950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

RENAULT

CLIO, 1.2 Panache Ltd Edn Hatchback 3d 1149cc, r730lrh, new mot good 1st car, red, miles, £895.00, DCD Autos, ASHFORD, 01233 642211 (TRADE)

CLIO, Privilege, feb 06, 5 doors, automatic, hatchback, petrol, 13, 075 miles, metallic grey, 2 owners. 3x3 point rear seat belts, abs, air conditioning, alloy wheels, audio remote control, body coloured bumpers, cloth seat trim, climate control, cruise control, drivers airbag, electricdoor mirrors, folding rear seats, front electric windows, front head restraints, full size spare wheel, heated door mirrors, height adjustable drivers seat, immobiliser, isofix child seat anchor points, lumbar support, pas, passenger airbag, radio/cd, rear electric windows, rear headrests, rear wiper, remote central locking, service indicator, side airbags, steering wheel rake adjustment, computer,full service renault history(last service 27/1008), 2 months tax, insurance group:6, grey, £7250, KENT, 01843585186 (PRIVATE)

ROVER

200, 216 CABRIOLET, 1997, grey, 0 miles, £1295, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

SKODA

SKODA OCTAVIA ESTATE CAR, 03 2000, 2.0 gl air/con elec windows 80.000 miles blue fsh no vat, £1495, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

SUBARU

IMPREZA, wrx turbo, 2004, red, 38000 miles, £10995, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

SUZUKI

SWIFT, 2008, cosmic black, 1750 miles, £7695, WJ King Vauxhall, Woolwich, 020 8854 8161 (TRADE)

TOYOTA

AYGO, 1.0 VVT-i + 3dr, 2006, 1.0 vvt-i + 3dr hatch, grey, 14726 miles, £5995, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

VAUXHALL

AGILA, 1199cc 5 door Enjoy, 2001, history check, 76350 miles, £2595, Pomphrey's of Sittingbourne, Sittingbourne, 01795 476222 (TRADE)

VOLKSWAGEN

CADDY, C20 SDi, lb05klf, side load door, bulkhead, cd player, ply-lined, 16'' alloys, blue, 30000 miles, £5195, Clearways Commercials, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

GOLF, 2.8 vr6, 1998, black, 93000 miles, £2500, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

POLO, 1.4 CL Hatchback 3Dr, t/1999, a/con pas electric windows electric mirrors radio/cd player, bright red, 63, 000 miles, £2395, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

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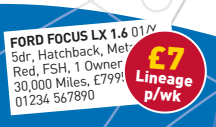

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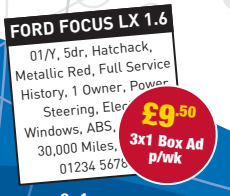

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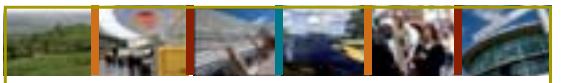

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For an informal discussion please contact Judith Armitt on 01233 330811.

Alternatively for an application form and further details, please send an A4 stamped addressed envelope to:

Personnel and Development, Civic Centre,Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1PL

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Contact; Mrs Julie Allen – julie.allen@nhs.net

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LS3 – 11
Required January 09 or asap

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We are looking for a qualified teacher with experience of teaching children with autism and Asperger syndrome. You will have responsibility for the management and curriculum of our current off-site Further Education Department. A new Further Education premises is in the process of being planned and you will be involved with this exciting development. In addition you will promote best practice through monitoring the teaching, learning and assessment throughout the school.

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Closing date: 04/12/08

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Band: 3
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Location: Trinity House, Ashford
Ref: 767-ASH228
Closing date: 05/12/08

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Band: 5
Hours: 37.5
Location: Dover Health Centre
Ref: 767-ASH226
Closing date: 05/12/08

Job Title: Community Health Nurse (School Nursing)
Salary: £20,225 to £26,123 pa
Band: 5
Hours: 30
Location: Dover Health Centre
Ref: 767-ASH227
Closing date: 05/12/08

Job Title: Staff Nurse
Salary: £20,225 to £26,123 pa
Band: 5
Hours: 37.5
Location: Faversham Cottage Hospital
Ref: 767-ASH229
Closing date: 06/12/08

Job Title: Nurse Practitioner MIU
Salary: £24,103 to £32,653 pa
Band: 6
Hours: 37.5
Location: Sheppey Community Hospital
Ref: 767-ASH230
Closing date: 06/12/08

Job Title: Clinical Nurse Specialist x 3
Salary: £29,091 - £38,385
Band: 7
Hours: 37.5
Location: Protea House, Dover
Ref: 767-ECC645
Closing date: 11/12/08

ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Job Title: Highly Specialist Obesity Dietitian
Salary: £29,091 to £38,352 pa
Band: 7
Hours: 37.5
Location: Sittingbourne Research Centre
Ref: 767-ASH191
Closing date: 03/12/08

Job Title: Prescribing Project Dietitian
Salary: £20,225 to £26,123 pa
Band: 5
Hours: 37.5
Location: William Harvey Hospital, Ashford
Ref: 767-ASH232
Closing date: 08/12/08

Job Title: Speech & Language Therapist (Schools Team & Early Years)
Salary: £20,225 - £26,123
Band: 5
Hours: 37.5
Location: QVMH, Herne Bay & Local Primary Schools, Thanet
Ref: 767-ECC637
Closing date: 16/12/08

Job Title: Speech & Language Therapist (Language Unit & Early Years)
Salary: £20,225 - £26,123
Band: 5
Hours: 37.5
Location: Laleham Gap School & Canterbury Health Centre
Ref: 767-ECC638
Closing date: 16/12/08

Job Title: Specialist Speech & Language Therapist (Thanet Schools Team)
Salary: £24,103 - £32,653
Band: 6
Hours: 37.5
Location: Mill Lane House, Margate
Ref: 767-ECC635
Closing date: 16/12/08

Job Title: Speech & Language Therapist (Schools Team & Early Years)
Salary: £20,225 - £26,123
Band: 5
Hours: 37.5
Location: Whitstable Health Centre & Local Primary Schools
Ref: 767-ECC639
Closing date: 16/12/08

Job Title: Specialist Speech & Language Therapist (Schools Team)
Salary: £24,103 - £32,653
Band: 6
Hours: 37.5
Location: Mill Lane House, Margate
Ref: 767-ECC634
Closing date: 16/12/08

Job Title: Highly Specialist Speech & Language Therapist (Schools Team)
Salary: £29,091 - £38,352
Band: 7
Hours: 26.25
Location: Canterbury & Faversham Schools
Ref: 767-ECC631
Closing date: 16/12/08

Job Title: Specialist Speech & Language Therapist (Early Years)
Salary: £24,103 - £32,653
Band: 6
Hours: 18.75
Location: Seashells Children's Centre, Sheerness
Ref: 767-ECC632
Closing date: 16/12/08

Job Title: Specialist Speech & Language Therapist (ASD/Secondary School Service)
Salary: £24,103 - £32,653
Band: 6
Hours: 37.5
Location: Spring Lane Neighbourhood Centre, Canterbury
Ref: 767-ECC633
Closing date: 16/12/08

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Job Title: Healthcare Assistant
Salary: £12,922 to £15,950 pa
Band: 2
Hours: 30
Location: Faversham Cottage Hospital
Ref: 767-ASH231
Closing date: 08/12/08

For further information and to apply, please visit **www.eastcoastkentpct.nhs.uk** or call **01227 866450.** We are an equal opportunities employer Committed to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults

New start for 2009

The Royal School of Military Engineering
Course Designer
Salary £34,000 per annum

MidKent College (MKC) is delighted to partner the Royal School of Military Engineering (RSME) at Brompton Barracks, Chatham.

We provide the trades and technical training for over 8500 Royal Engineers each year and are recruiting a number of key posts to complement the teams already in place at the RSME.

If you are a Course Designer and would enjoy using your skills and experience to help develop the Military artisans of tomorrow, then this could be the ideal opportunity for you.

You will work within an established team, in a professional environment at a time when the RSME moves into an exciting phase of its development.

Whilst you will already have skills, qualifications and experience relevant for this post, you will be fully supported and encouraged to gain further appropriate qualifications and accreditation that will develop you as an individual and benefit the RSME.

If this sounds like the right role for you – get in touch now

For an application form and job description please: **Visit our website www.midkent.ac.uk**
Email: rsme.recruitment@midkent.ac.uk
Telephone 01634 884555 (24 hr answer machine)

For an informal discussion on these positions, please call: **Ken Pullan on 07725128661**

Closing Date 30th November 2008

The College is committed to Equal Opportunities and to selection on merit. It welcomes applications from all sections of society. We particularly welcome and encourage applications from under represented groups including black, minority ethnic and disabled people.

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New start for 2009

The Royal School of Military Engineering
Engineering Opportunities: £35,000 - £40,000 (Snr Post c£45k)

Mid Kent College (MKC) is delighted to partner the Royal School of Military Engineering (RSME) at Brompton Barracks, Chatham.

We provide the trades and technical training for over 8500 Royal Engineers each year and are recruiting a number of key posts to strengthen the teams already in place at the RSME as the 30 year contract transitions to the Colleges management team.

We have opportunities for experienced engineers (ideally degree qualified) to move into lecturing roles. The Professional Engineering Wing (PEW) of the RSME develops military personnel into Clerk of Works to IEng, foundation degree and HND level.

We have positions for:

- **Electrical Engineers** with DC, AC & single/three phase, power generation, transmission & distribution up to 11kV, generators& motors and domestic installations knowledge and experience.
- **Mechanical Engineers** with fluid mechanics & thermodynamics, pipe design and pump sizing, H & C water supply/waste, large scale heating system design, ACR/HVAC control systems and lift technology knowledge and experience.
- **Construction Engineers** with groundwork, timber, masonry & scaffolding, superstructures, finishes and services knowledge and experience.
- **Project Planner** with experience of building site project management and work programming.
- **Civil Engineer** (Snr post) ICE with "contractor" background.

You will work within an established team, in a professional environment at a time when the RSME moves into an exciting phase of its development and will be fully supported to gain additional relevant qualifications, memberships and accreditations that develop you as an engineer and benefit the PEW faculty.

For an application form and job description please: **Visit our website www.midkent.ac.uk**
Email: rsme.recruitment@midkent.ac.uk
Telephone 01634 884555 (24 hr answer machine)

For an informal discussion on these positions, please call: **Ken Pullan on 07725128661**

Closing Date 31st January 2009

The College is committed to Equal Opportunities and to selection on merit. It welcomes applications from all sections of society. We particularly welcome and encourage applications from under represented groups including black, minority ethnic and disabled people.

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Career Opportunities

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Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you.

Head of Faculty A Levels, Science & Humanities — **Ref 06/103**
37 hours per week, salary starting from £42,128 per annum

Lecturer Early Years — **Ref 08/40**
2 posts at 37 hours per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 per annum

Temporary Lecturer Performing Arts and Contemporary Dance — **Ref 08/152**
27.75 hours per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum.
Temporary post to cover maternity leave not to exceed one year

Supply Lecturer HE Business Enterprise and General Management to teach on HNC/FD and BA programmes. — **Ref S/HE/BE**
Various hours available, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum.
Applicants must hold a first degree in any discipline

Supply Lecturers
Various hours available, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

Dental Nursing	Ref S/DN
Information, Advice and Guidance	Ref S/IAG
Mental Health	Ref S/MH
Midwifery	Ref S/MID
Catering and Hospitality	Ref S/C&H
Key Skills Application of Number within Animal Care	Ref S/KSAC
Early Years to teach BTEC First Diploma in Child Care, Learning and Development	Ref S/EY

Supply Trainer Demonstrators — **Ref S/TD/ME**
Various hours available, salary starting from £18,963 pro rata per annum
Mechanical Engineering
Machining (turning and milling)
Fabrication and Welding

Network Applications Technician (Advanced) — **Ref ATA**
37 hours per week, salary starting from £21,440 per annum

Trainer Demonstrator Hospitality & Catering — **Ref TD8**
2 posts at 18.5 hours per week, salary starting from £18,963 pro rata per annum

Trainer Demonstrator Hospitality & Catering — **Ref 08/153**
9.25 hours per week, salary starting from 18,963 pro rata per annum

Skills for Life Initial Assessor — **Ref 08/154**
18.5 hours per week, salary starting from £15,085 pro rata per annum

Cleaning Coordinator — **Ref CLC1**
37 hours per week, salary starting from £16,914 per annum.
4 week shift pattern – 3 weeks nights and 1 week of days

Assistant Cleaning Coordinator — **Ref ACC1**
37 hours per week, salary starting from £15,085 pro rata per annum (nights)

Supply NVQ Assessors in Early Years — **Ref S/ASS/EY**
Various hours available, salary range from £18,295 - £26,232 pro rata per annum

For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference.

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- Staff Discount Scheme

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The closing date for the above posts is Monday 8th December 2008 at 12 noon

CLICK www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies
CALL *01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone)*

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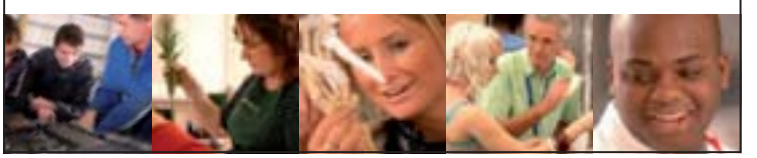

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Anchor Foster Care Services are looking to recruit additional foster carers

We would love to hear from you if you are interested in fostering and would like some additional information. However we are particularly interested in hearing from people who meet the following criteria:

- Carers without birth children under 10
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Marlowe Academy

Stirling Way, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 6NB
Tele: 01843 593326 – www.marloweacademy.co.uk

We are looking for candidates who are emotionally literate, committed to inclusion and willing to learn, to be part of the following teams:

Year 8/9

Key roles will include supporting students in completing study work, classroom support and as a Learning Mentor, meeting with students on a regular basis to confirm their progress and achievement, and to provide individual support as appropriate.

Science

Key roles to help support our exciting range of Science courses across KS3/4, supporting whole classes and individual students during practical and theoretical lessons and as a Learning Mentor. Experience of working within a school would be advantageous but an interest in Science is essential.

6th Form

Key roles will include supporting students in Years 11-14 in completing study work, classroom support and as a Learning Mentor, meeting with students on a regular basis to confirm their progress and achievement, and to provide individual support as appropriate.

We are looking for people who can take initiative and work both independently and as part of a team. All applications are welcome. Salary equivalent pt 8-12 on Kent Scheme. 14K pro rata for 40 hours a week term time only. The successful applicants will be subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Please send a copy of your CV and covering letter to our HR Department at Jenniferspooner@marloweacademy.co.uk or our address as above
Enquiries or visits to the Academy are welcome.
Please contact Jennifer Spooner on
direct telephone no: 01843 598550 or email to address above.
We look forward to hearing from you.
The closing date for post: Thursday, 11th December 2008

Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School
Maidstone Road Rochester Kent ME1 3EL
Tel: 01634 844008
Email:
office@sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk
Website: www.sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk

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PASTORAL SUPPORT ASSISTANT

We require a full time Pastoral Support Assistant who would be prepared to act as a Cover Supervisor for 37 hours per week, term time only to start in January 2009. Salary will be according to age and experience and will be paid at Medway Grade D2 – Salary range £14,782 - £18,799 pro rata.

The school is expanding its team of support staff in order to enhance our pastoral structure and allow teachers to be at the forefront of learning. Do you relate well to young people? Could you support students at times when they meet barriers to their learning? Would you be able to liaise with parents, teachers and other professionals in support of individuals? Would you be interested in developing your skills with classes of young people?

If so, please contact Mrs J Harrison for an application form and job specification on 01634 844008.

Any offer of employment will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check.

Closing date for applications
– Friday, 12th December 2008

Foster carers wanted

The Caldecott Foundation, which cares for vulnerable children who have experienced extreme trauma and disruption, seeks dedicated and highly motivated foster carers. Comprehensive training and support given, plus excellent rates of pay.
Contact Jamie Bromfield or Erica Eversfield on 01303 815648 or email fostering@caldecottfoundation.co.uk

The Caldecott Foundation, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SP.

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Can you provide a safe and caring home for vulnerable children? We would love to hear from you if you are interested or involved in Fostering and would like additional information. Full training and support provided in addition to excellent rates of pay.

For details please contact 01732 746697
info@benecarefostering.co.uk
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Candidates must have a Level 2 Gym Instructor Qualification. An Assessor Qualification (D32/D33 or A1) along with a Teaching Qualification is desirable; however we will provide training for suitable applicants.

For further information and to apply please contact Chandni Sehmi on greatstaff@ymca.co.uk or call 020 7343 1835 quoting reference: KGA.

Closing date: 15th December 2008.
Interview date: 22nd December 2008.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

The Insolvency Act 1986
SM CONSTRUCTION SOUTH EAST LIMITED
(In Creditors Voluntary Liquidation)
Company No: 5827912

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I, Malcolm John Ryan, of 5 Walden Close, Belvedere, Kent, DA17 5HD was appointed Liquidator of the above named Company by the Members and Creditors on 20th November 2008.
Malcolm John Ryan, Liquidator

To advertise in this section
01303 817040

The Insolvency Act 986
CONSTRUCTION ESTIMATING LIMITED
Company Number 03493950

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of creditors of the above company will be held at Kent House, Romney Place, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6LH, on 12 December 2008, at 11.30 am for the purpose of having a full statement of the position of the company's affairs, together with a list of creditors of the company and the estimated amount of their claims, laid before them, and for the purpose, if thought fit, of nominating a liquidator and of appointing a Liquidation Committee pursuant to Sections 99 to 101 of the Insolvency Act 1986. The resolutions to be taken at the meeting may include a resolution specifying the terms on which the liquidator is to be remunerated in terms of fees and disbursements (including those as categorised in the Statement of Insolvency Practice 9, Category 2) and a Resolution conferring upon the duly appointed Liquidator the powers contained in Schedule 4 Part 1 of the Insolvency Act 1986. The meeting may receive information about, and be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the meeting. Notice is also hereby given, pursuant to Section 98(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors may be examined free of charge at the offices Atherton Bailey, Kent House, Romney Place, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6LH, between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days prior to the day of the meeting. To be entitled to vote creditors must lodge a full statement of account and unless claiming personally they must also submit a form of proxy which, if intended to be used, must be duly completed and lodged at the registered office of the company, Kent House, Romney Place, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6LH not later than 12.00 noon on the business day before the meeting. Unless they surrender their security Secured creditors, if they wish to vote at the meeting, must also lodge full details of their security and its assessed value.
Dated 28 November 2008
By Order of the Board
Howard Martin Law, Director

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New start for 2009

The Royal School of Military Engineering

Support Opportunities

Mid Kent College (MKC) is delighted to partner the Royal School of Military Engineering (RSME) at Brompton Barracks, Chatham.

We provide the trades and technical training for over 8500 Royal Engineers each year and are recruiting a number of key posts to complement the teams already in place at the RSME.

Facilities Manager Circa £38,000 – to take full responsibility for the buildings & infrastructure (including workshops and classrooms) occupied by MKC Training Services on site at the RSME. Experience of the management of Electro/Mechanical services essential.

Workshop Assistant £19,008 - £21,000 – to provide practical support within the Fitter Department, assisting with the smooth running of the stores, light maintenance duties and the movement of equipment. Would suit someone with a mechanical background and a current Fork Lift licence.

ICT Site Engineer £19,736 - £25,441 – to provide support and maintenance in response to "logged" fault calls. Must be familiar with the configuration and use of all Microsoft desk top operating systems and experienced with configuring and installing computer hardware/ancillary components.

You will work within an established team, in a professional environment at a time when the RSME moves into an exciting phase of its development.

Whilst you will already have skills, qualifications and/or experience relevant for these posts, you will be fully supported and encouraged to gain further appropriate qualifications and accreditation that will develop you as an individual and benefit the RSME.

For an application form and job description please: Visit our website www.midkent.ac.uk
Email: rsme.recruitment@midkent.ac.uk
Telephone 01634 884555 (24 hr answer machine)

For an informal discussion on these positions, please call: **Ken Pullan on 07725128661**

Closing Date 5th December 2008

The College is committed to Equal Opportunities and to selection on merit. It welcomes applications from all sections of society. We particularly welcome and encourage applications from under represented groups including black, minority ethnic and disabled people.

MKC Training Services is an equal opportunity employer

MKC Training Services Limited

CLASSROOM MANAGERS REQUIRED

Hours: 8.30am - 3.30pm, 32 hours a week, term-time only (39 weeks)
Salary: Kent Scheme 6 (£18,288 - £20,061 pro rata per annum)

We are looking for people with excellent communication skills, the ability to interact well with both students (aged 11-18) and staff, the ability to manage a variety of situations, be calm and work well under pressure.

The main role is to supervise and provide instruction to students in the absence of subject teachers for lessons provided. The Classroom Manager will also be responsible for carrying out other tasks that are related to the learning environment.

For more information and an application form please contact:
Miss S Spratley, Pent Valley Technology College,
Surrenden Road, Folkestone, Kent. CT19 4ED.
Email: samantha.spratley@pent-valley.kent.sch.uk
Tel: 01303 277161 ext 2218 Fax: 01303 279342

Closing Date: Friday 12th December 2008
Interviews: Week beginning 15th December 2008

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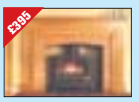

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Editorial: email tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk **Advertising:** Telephone: 01303 817186 or email richard.parsons@kosmedia.co.uk

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Focus on staff welfare pays off for holiday park

KEEPING its staff as happy as its customers has won Ashcroft Coast Holiday Park, near Leysdown, the national Investors in People award.

The title provides a framework for improving performance and competitiveness through training and development.

Gary Cook, general manager, said: "As part of our parent company, Park Resorts, we already had good practices in place, including training courses and a mystery shopper scheme.

"Since we started working with Investors in People I now hold weekly heads-of-department meetings and they in turn have their own team meetings.

"We also have 'Ten on Ten' daily, a ten-minute get-together to discuss any issues arising and which helps boost morale."

Marketing on the menu at breakfast meetings

A SERIES of business breakfasts offering practical marketing help and advice has been organised by the Kent branch of the Chartered Institute of Marketing (CIM).

Using professional marketers and aimed at the county's small and medium sized businesses (SMEs), Simply Better Marketing will help people make the most of marketing resources.

The first three events will offer businesses simple marketing advice. They will be run in conjunction with Business Link and hosted by Canterbury Christ Church University at Hall Place Enterprise Centre, Harbledown.

They are on February 25, March 25 and April 30. The Kent Branch of the CIM has more than 1,000 members.

For details, visit www.cim.co.uk.

Buy local to boost county economy this Christmas

PRODUCED IN KENT, the champion of food and drink producers across the county, is hoping more people than ever will take a trip to their local farm shops, independent retailers and farmers' markets when getting ready for Christmas.

Many families will be looking for ways to save money this year and it is also a time when local producers can compete with supermarkets in terms of seasonal staples.

Market research has shown that every £10 spent on local produce is worth £25 to the Kent economy, compared with only £14 when it's spent in a supermarket.

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KOS Media's Paul Stannard on our £1m challenge. See our business channel.

Banks' turn to help firms out of bad debt

BANKS had better pull out their fingers and start lending at sensible levels to struggling businesses.

BY **TONY PATEY**

The stiff verdict comes after the news that more than half of UK accountants reckon bad debts are one of the biggest worries for bosses.

Research by invoice and asset-based lender Venture Finance shows the knock-on domino effect of lack of cash, leading to late payments among firms along the chain, is unsurprisingly having a major impact.

Up to now, lack of liquidity – ready day-to-day cash – in the general banking market has already meant companies face difficulties when trying to re-finance – resulting in businesses of all sizes experiencing more and more late payments and bad debt.

Available

In Chancellor Alistair Darling's pre-Budget report last week the Government agreed a whopping £4 billion deal with the European Investment Bank for banks to pass on, and seven UK banks have already asked to be part of the action, and could be making money available by the end of the year.

There is also the credit worth £1bn to small firms which will be offered by the Government via a temporary Small Business Finance Scheme, and Mr Darling said from January that there will be short-term working capital help to small exporters to the tune of another £1bn.

Venture, which has a regional office in Canterbury covering the whole county, says that small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) feel threatened by forecasts that the number of business failures between 2007 and 2009 is expected to increase by 18 per cent.

But scores of businesses have no bad debt protection in place, often, it says, a result of having misplaced confidence in their customers.

Just one in five of accountants surveyed had business clients currently using protection services.

Dangerous

Tim Bourner, Venture's Canterbury business development manager, said: "The misguided assumption that 'it will never happen to me' is very dangerous, especially in these uncertain times.

"It is predicted that insolvency levels will continue to rise throughout this year and next, surpassing even those of the dot.com bubble burst in 2002, which saw almost 20,000 business fail, and the subsequent ripples will be far-reached.

"It is encouraging, however, to see that accountants recognise the value of bad debt protection – perhaps because they have witnessed the consequences of businesses not doing so in the past."

Bad debt protection gives full cover on invoices, providing small to medium enterprises peace of mind and sheltering business against unforeseen loss of income.

Especially for a young company, late payment and non-payment can have a significant effect on cashflow, causing huge financial strain and threatening business security.

BIG DEAL: The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Alistair Darling, announced a £7 billion package of measures for the county's businesses in his pre-Budget report last week

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Piers pressured as Dover punish cheeky chip

Picture BOB HAYTON

HEAVY GOING: Maidstone's winless season continued with defeat against Dover

RUGBY

Maidstone 5
Dover 28

ED LAURENT'S first half try was as good as it got for Maidstone as their poor season continued with a heavy defeat to Dover at The Mote.

Dover soon established themselves in the Maidstone half with some astute kicking from their stand-off, but the early exchanges were even.

On the quarter hour, Maidstone were penalised for holding on after a tackle and from the resulting penalty, Dover captain, Martyn Beaumont put the visitors ahead.

Dover continued to dominate territorially and in an effort to break their stranglehold, Piers Francis tried a cheeky chip over the opposition.

Sadly it backfired, as the ball was charged down, allowing his opposite number to pick it up and stroll over the try line.

Maidstone got themselves on the score sheet shortly afterwards with a clever penalty from Neil Graves, who took a quick tap and burst through the Dover defence. Ed Laurent touched down for the try, but Francis failed to add the extras.

Maidstone found scoring chances hard to come by in the second half and were punished for a mistake immediately after the restart.

Laurent allowed his opposite number to harass him off the ball and he set up centre, Beaumont, for a run to the Maidstone try line.

Dover continued to show their attacking flair and extended the lead with a well worked try that saw flanker Buster Collins cross the line.

With full-time beckoning, Dover wrapped up the points with another score. A chip ahead to the Maidstone line allowed Beaumont to show his pace and agility, rising above the defence to crash over.

This Saturday Maidstone will travel to high-flying Basingstoke as they continue the search for their first win of the season.

A golden display by disabled gymnast

YOUNG gymnast Lauren Lethbridge has become British Junior champion at the Gymnastic and Movement for people with disability British Championships.

The 12-year-old from Boughton Monchelsea, near Maidstone, produced a clean sweep on all the apparatus, claiming gold on bars, beam, floor and vault to win the overall gold medal.

It was the first competitive outing for the Sutton Valence School pupil, which bodes well for the gymnast.

Delighted parent Mrs Lethbridge said: "It is very difficult to get across the amazing achievement this is for Lauren as to look at her, you wouldn't realise that she has a disability and struggles daily."

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Catch-up with the action from Invicta Dynamos' game against Oxford City Stars

Only way is up for beaten Ladies XI

MAIDSTONE Ladies hockey 1st XI fell to the bottom of the Conference East after a heavy defeat to the league leaders Reading.

Reading, who are undefeated so far this season, were too strong for Maidstone and eventually thrashed Lizzie Daniels' side 5-1.

Maidstone found themselves three goals behind after 42 minutes with a brace from Vicky Bryant and Becky Dru's strike.

Emma Greenway pulled a goal back on the hour mark, but it proved to be a mere consolation as Reading went on to score two more goals to wrap up the victory.

PLEASE SEND YOUR SPORTS STORIES TO SPORTS EDITOR GLENN PEARSON AT glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk

Pictures STEVE TERRELL

IN SAFE HANDS: Maidstone's Andy Walker (left) made several excellent saves to keep Billericay out in the first half, while Jay Saunders (right) scored on his return from injury

Saunders saves the Jay as Stones keep Ricay in check

JAY Saunders' second half strike earned Maidstone United a point in a hard-fought encounter at fellow play-off hopefuls Billericay Town.

The Stones went into the game still without Nathan Paul, Ben Lewis and Elliot Bradbrook, who were sidelined through injury, but influential midfielder Saunders returned to the side.

It took five minutes for the Stones to create the first serious chance. Maidstone's answer to Rory Delap, Aaron Lacy, launched a long throw into the area which broke for Roland Edge, but his shot went over the bar.

Stones goalkeeper Andy Walker was not called into serious action until mid-way through the first half. Ricay's Steven Ferguson launched a counter-attack down the right and broke into the Maidstone area, but the angle was tight and Walker was equal to his shot.

For the remainder of the half the home side put Maidstone under pressure. Walker was forced to produce another smart stop, this time from Jamie Dormer, who then blasted a second effort wide. Dormer was again denied from a corner, Walker this time turning the ball round the post.

Billericay started the second half as they finished the first by immediately putting Maidstone under pressure.

Despite some impressive defending at times Maidstone were breached on 72 minutes. Ferguson found space to float a cross onto the head of Billy Bricknell and the ball trickled beyond Walker and into the net.

Maidstone equalised four minutes later. A long ball into the area by Lacy via James Peacock found Saunders, who guided the ball into the net.

The home side should have won the game shortly after as Bricknell created a great chance, but he fired wide with only the goalkeeper to beat.

The Stones held on in the remaining minutes to record only their third draw of the season and the result shows just how far United have come since they were outclassed 4-0 in the corresponding fixture last year.

Maidstone were in action in the Isthmian League cup at Ryman North side Aveley yesterday. Log on to www.yourmaidstone.co.uk for a full report.

FOOTBALL

BY TOM HOWARD

Billericay Town 1
Bricknell 72

Maidstone United 1
Saunders 76

Maidstone United starting XI

Subs: Selley, A. Bodle, Hume, Pinnock,Northwood

NEW CHALLENGE: Stefan Davis enjoyed his test with Volkswagen this week and is hoping to find backing for the 2009 Intercontinental Rally Challenge

Stefan widens the net in search of a sponsor

RALLY driver Stefan Davis is setting his sights on the Intercontinental Rally Challenge following a successful test in Volkswagen's 2010 World Rally Championship car.

The 29-year-old, from Aylesford, was invited by the German marque to be one of the first drivers to drive their new prototype, which adheres to the new FIA guidelines which ban the use of turbo chargers.

The test was Davis' first in a four-wheel drive world rally car, and he believes the rule changes will encourage more manufacturers to join the championship, meaning more drives will be up for grabs.

MOTORSPORT

BY **TOM HOWARD**

He said: "It was a great experience to drive a machine that most WRC drivers have not tested yet. It costs £150,000 less to run one of these machines.

"It is hoped that this will encourage more manufacturers to enter the championship, which can only be a good thing for drivers.

"I must admit, I didn't think I would be able to cope with the power after the first lap, but I soon got used to it."

Davis has had a year to forget in the British Rally Championship as a lack of funding meant he could only compete in two rounds after coming so close to the 2007 Super 1600 crown.

Davis has had to search far and wide for sponsorship leading him to a possible entry into the Intercontinental Rally Challenge.

The series is a rival to the top level World Rally Championship, which sees the world's fastest rally cars compete all over the world including the famous San Remo and Monte Carlo events.

He added: "For 2009 we are looking for backing but I am looking further afield. I tested VW's S1600 car and that could be a possibility.

"It is hard to say whether we will be able to do something with VW, but I need to secure financial backing first."

LEAGUE TABLES

RYMAN PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Dover Athletic	17	15	0	2	+24	45
2 Carshalton Athletic	19	11	4	4	+7	37
3 Staines Town	17	11	3	3	+14	36
4 Canvey Island	20	10	5	5	+13	35
5 Tonbridge Angels	19	9	5	5	+11	32
6 Maidstone United	**18**	**9**	**3**	**6**	**+7**	**30**
7 Tooting & M'cham U	19	9	2	8	+2	29
8 Ashford Town (Mx)	17	9	0	8	+4	27
9 Billericay Town	18	7	5	6	-6	26
10 Wealdstone	20	7	4	9	+1	25
11 AFC Hornchurch	17	7	4	6	+1	25
12 Hastings United	19	8	0	11	-8	24
13 Sutton United	16	6	5	5	-3	23
14 Horsham	18	7	2	9	-8	23
15 Boreham Wood	18	6	4	8	-7	22
16 Harlow Town	15	6	3	6	+5	21
17 Dartford	18	6	3	9	-3	21
18 Margate	20	5	3	12	-13	18
19 Harrow Borough	18	4	6	8	-14	18
20 Ramsgate	19	3	7	9	-13	16
21 Hendon	18	4	3	11	-3	15
22 Heybridge Swifts	18	1	7	10	-11	10

FIXTURES

Saturday, December 6

Maidstone United v Heybridge Swifts

Bulls beat Lords to keep winning momentum going

RUGBY

Lordswood 8 Aylesford Bulls 16

AYLESFORD Bulls secured their third consecutive league victory to keep the pressure on top three teams in London South East 3.

The early stages were dominated by indiscipline as a number of penalties were given away by both sides.

However, converting the penalties into points was made difficult by tricky pitch and weather conditions.

With eight minutes remaining in the first half, the Bulls opened the scoring with a Matt Newton penalty. Yet the lead was short lived as five minutes later Lordswood levelled the game with a penalty which brought the half to a close.

Bulls immediately regained the advantage in the second half after a change of kicker. Luke Cherrington replaced Newton and he made no mistake with a penalty to give Aylesford a 6-3 lead.

Cherrington then set up the opening try of the afternoon. Tim Vereivalu began the move, using his power to break down the Lordsword defence.

The critical part of the move came from clever pass from Cherrington that found Karl Hutching, who crashed over the line. Cherrington kicked the extras to give Bulls a 13-3 lead.

With nine minutes remaining, Aylesford wrapped the game up with two points from another successful Cherrington penalty kick.

In the dying minutes Lordswood breached the Bulls' defence to score a try but it was not enough.

Picture MARTYN WATSON

ON A ROLE: Aylesford (in red and blue) keep their winning streak going with a comfortable victory

Aylesford Bulls ladies finished the runners up in the Plate competition of the Dubai Sevens tournament. The Bulls had a tough group and played against the England national side, who beat them 39-0.

FOOTBALL

RETURN: Ben Lewis is nearing a comeback for Maidstone after a back injury

Draw not a fair result, says Stones manager

DESPITE the opposition created the clearest goal scoring chances Maidstone United joint manager Alan Walker felt his side were hard done by to take only a point at Billericay.

Jay Saunders' close range strike on 76 minutes ensured Stones left Essex with a point after Billy Bricknell put the home side in front four minutes earlier.

Walker, however, felt his side had done enough to take all three points.

He said: "I think looking back on the game we probably deserved to win even though Billericay created the most clear cut chances. We looked as though we wanted to win the game more than they did. So in many ways I do not think a draw was the fair result.

"Billericay beat us twice so it does show how far we have come but we have a completely different team compared to last year so it is difficult to draw comparisons."

With Nathan Paul, Ben Lewis and Elliot Bradbrook missing the last three games, Walker praised their replacements, but admitted he is looking forward to having a fully fit squad.

He added: "We are still doing ok in the league and when all of our players return from injury will give the squad a massive boost.

"That is not to say that the players who have stepped in have not done well they deserve a lot of credit. Nathan is probably one the best if not one of the best full backs in this division but Ashley Ulph has come in and the highest compliment I can pay him is that we did not miss Nathan."

Paul looks set for a challenge to win his place back off Ulph, but could return from his thumb injury in two weeks time.

Elsewhere on the injury front Lewis' back injury is not as bad as first feared after a scan and he is nearing a comeback.

Bradbrook remains a doubt for Saturday's clash with Heybridge Swifts as he recovers from a thigh strain.

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Gills boss Mark Stimson on the loss of the club's scouting network

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